

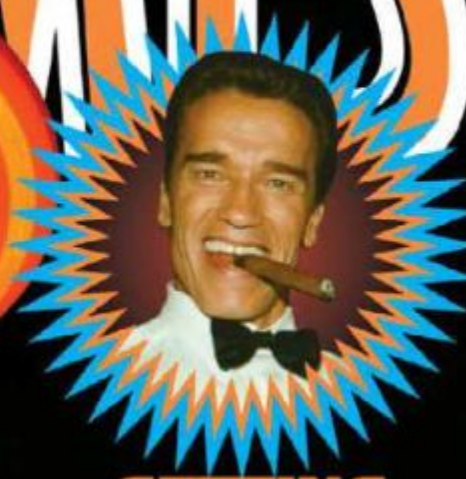
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HIGH TIMES

MARCH 2008

GLASS OF 2009



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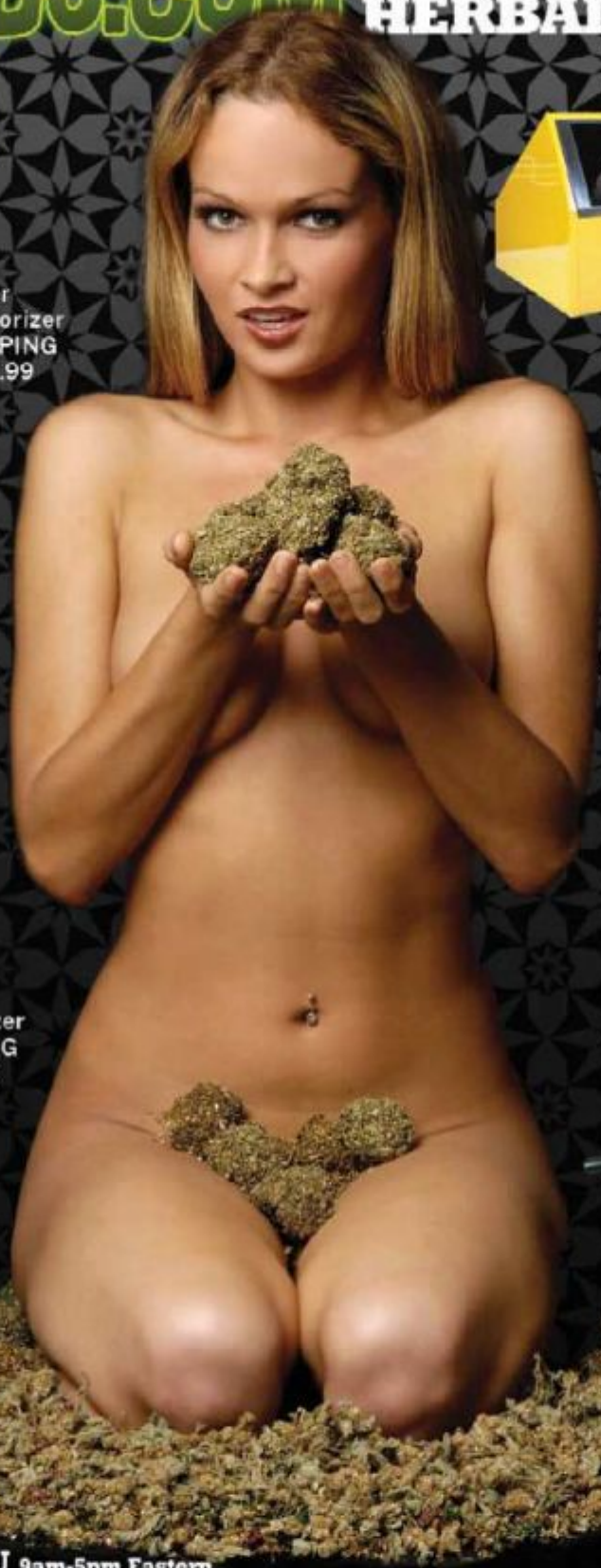
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TRIMM FOR TRIMM



Dustin of Revere Glass in Berkeley, CA uses his torch to create hot glass smokeware.

DAN SKYE

BLOWIN' IN THE WIND

I think I have déjà vu. You know déjà vu: when you feel like everything is eerily familiar. Like you've done something or been somewhere before.

I've been here before.

This is our annual glass issue, in which we showcase the work of top glass artists—and guess what? These exquisitely crafted pipes are *still* instruments of criminality. Why? Because the Supreme Court says so: Colorful pipes, brilliant bongos and pretty much all non-traditional pipes have no other use but to be packed with illegal substances. In other words, the judgment has already been handed down. Art doesn't enter into the equation, no matter how outlandishly imaginative glassblowers strive to be in the creation of smokeware. I've been here before.

There's this other feature in the issue, "Spirit & Smoke." I covered this same Native American story 12 years ago in HIGH TIMES (April '97). Back then, two Tuscarora brothers claimed that cannabis was a part of their spiritual heritage after they were busted for cultivation. It turns out that "Tuscarora" actually translates as "People of the Hemp." Guess what? This past summer, their garden was again raided by a heavily armed contingent of Feds and local law enforcement. And again, the same issues of Native spiritual rights are at stake. Like I said, I've been here before.

This issue is being released at the same moment as the inauguration of a new president. We've been here before.

Thirteen states have now legalized medical marijuana, but the federal government continues to wage a brutal, dishonest war on cannabis. The marijuana arrest rate is beyond shocking: 20 million busts since 1965! We've all been here before!

Déjà vu. Aren't you getting sick of it? Let's hope we can end it with the new guy.

Dan Skye

Dan Skye
Senior Editor

HIGH TIMES

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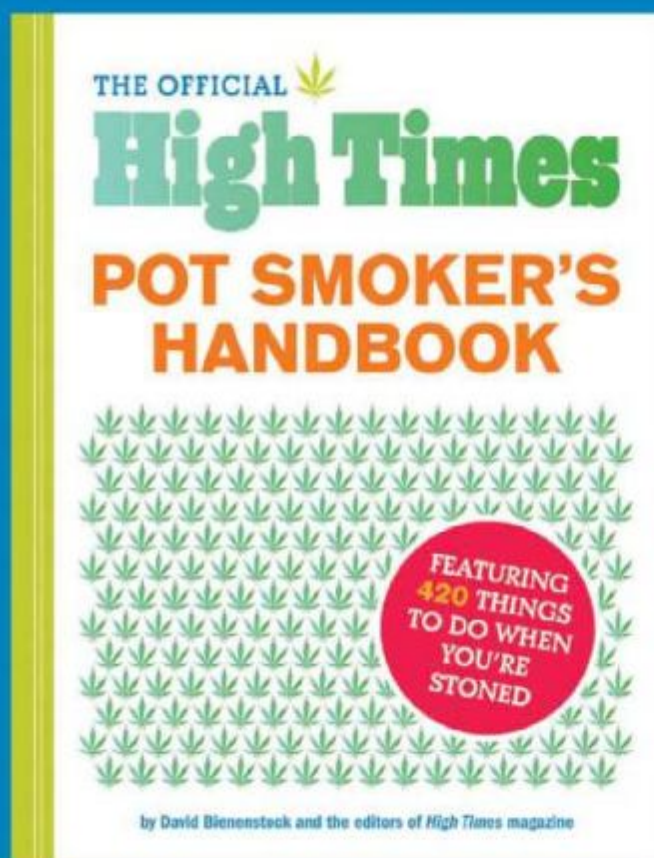
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CHRONICLE BOOKS

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features

34 ALL ABOUT GROW BOXES

We asked our West Coast lab team to experiment with some grow boxes and assess their strength in the market. The results were good as their report indicates today's grow boxes can suit home growers and hobbyists as well as large-scale operations if you have the skill and desire. Check out the full analysis as we explore the world of box-based growing!

38 SPIRIT & SMOKE BY DAN SKYE

Following their cultivation bust, two Native American brothers are claiming that hemp is part of their tribal heritage. In fact, the name of the Tuscarora tribe literally translates to "People of the Hemp." They say a higher power instructs them to grow.

44 GLASS OF 2009 BY E. KEET

Take a stroll through a garden of the most exquisite smokeware you could ever wrap your lips around. Your mouth will water over wacky waterpipes and you'll get buzzed by bodacious bong.

52 THE WIZARD OF BUZZ

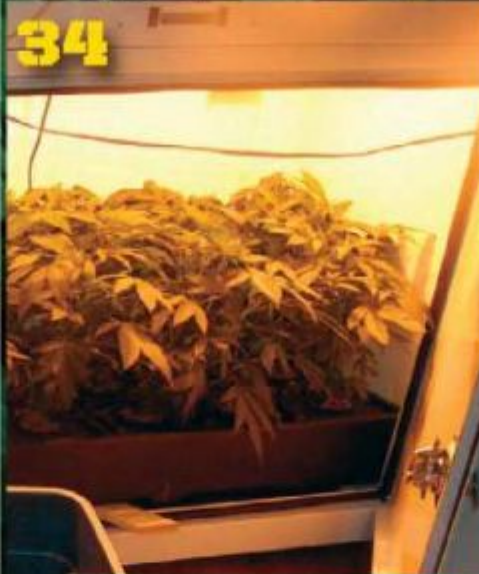
Peek behind the curtain in the realm of an expert medical marijuana grower who reveals his secrets to perfect pot production.

64 I SMOKED POT WITH THE GOVERNATOR BY TOMMY CHONG

The true account of how the world's most famous pot-head got high with Arnold Schwarzenegger in the 1960s.

72 THE HIGH TIMES INTERVIEW: A CONVERSATION WITH RICK STEVES BY BOBBY BLACK

We caught up with celebrated travel guru and pot activist Rick Steves at last year's Seattle Hempfest to ask him about his recent educational video on legalization and the state of the Drug War in America.



departments

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12 highwitness news/buzz

EDITED BY DAN SKYE

Cheech & Chong on tour; Change chart; Joints in Japan; Mayan message; Pot surfboard; Nuclear nugs; Seedless Clothing; Pineapple Express DVD; Showbuzz; Hemp in North Dakota; High in Europe; Battling Prohibition; Cartels in Utah; Cannabis in Calgary; THMQ; Reviews; Bart Schneider; EzoZone; Del Tha Funkee Homosapien; Almost Infamous; Miss HIGH TIMES; Vaporella.

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EDITED BY DANNY DANKO & NICO ESCONDIDO
Pix of the Crop; Medical News; Food; NORMLizer; Freedom Fighter of the Month; Ask Dr. Mitch; NORML Convention; Subcool's Super Soil; Jorge's Rx and March Garden Calendar by Jorge Cervantes.

110 next month

116 pot 40

COVER: KENT SEA BUBBLER BY: JASON LEE
STRAIN: STRAWBERRY COUGH
INSET OF ARNOLD: SIEMONEIT RONALD/CORBIS
CENTERFOLD: FREEBIE STRAIN: BLACKBERRY KUSH

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HIGH ON READING

Wow! The mouth-watering photos displayed in issue after issue, and all those tips and techniques from world-class growers, are enough to make any true pot enthusiast crave the next edition of HIGH TIMES. I get high just imagining smoking the various buds as I flip through its pages.

I realize HIGH TIMES is the leading force in the pot counterculture today, keeping pot smokers worldwide informed about what they can look forward to in the coming months and providing great Mary Jane information all around. What more could a stoner ask for? Thanks, HIGH TIMES, for giving the everyday stoner all those tips and insights into producing great buds, and for always providing pictures of the best herb around. A truly solid magazine.



Cameron Hotchkis

PRESCRIPTION NEEDED

I'm a 23-year-old male with spina bifida—a deformation of the spine that causes extreme pain—as well as scoliosis, which also causes extreme pain. I have had no luck finding a doctor willing to prescribe medical marijuana. I have been on morphine and numerous other hardcore narcotics since I was 14, and I am sick of the withdrawal and side effects. If anyone reading this can help me out, you would be saving my life.

*Brandon Scott
qujeanie@aol.com*

MEXICAN NIGHTMARE

My brother has a medical-marijuana recommendation letter and was traveling to Mexico with 10 grams of marijuana on him. He was detained at the border and thrown into a Mexican prison in Nogales. He's been there for almost seven weeks. The conditions in the prison are beyond atrocious, and we have been already ripped off by numerous attorneys and others trying to get him out.

My brother is an upstanding citizen, a hard worker and a wonderful person. He was always there for anyone who needed it, and he has helped out family and friends without asking for anything in return. He was targeted because he was in an expensive RV. Yes, he had marijuana on him, but it was an amount that was obviously intended for personal medical use and not for trafficking. So I just want to spread the word to anyone traveling to Mexico to be careful.

Tina C.

HEMP FOR FUEL

I am a chemical-engineering student at the University of Utah. In your last issue, you highlighted what John Baker and his company, Stonehedge Bio-Resources Inc., were doing with hemp-based products. I believe that cellulosic ethanol using hemp stalk as fuel is the key to our energy inde-

pendence. Along with being able to produce two to three crops a year in temperate climates, hemp has an extremely high lignin cellulose content that is perfect for making fuels, biodegradable plastics and chemicals.

S.G.

STONED RHINO

I was thrilled to see a mention of our Stoned Rhino in HIGH TIMES, but one correction needs to be made. Yes, the mother was a White Rhino from Green House Seeds, found and nurtured by stonedas of Sydney and one of our breeders. But the father was actually Bjorn, a Celtic Stone F1 male. Bjorn helped produce some of our best strains; everything he blew on came out magical, and it was like losing a son when we lost him. RIP, Bjorn.

deadvet

WORLD STONER GAMES

The 2008 World Stoner Games really lived up to my expectations. Aside from getting busted at the border with about two grams of weed, the whole weekend was a blast! Throughout my road trip from Long Island, NY, to Toronto, there was never a doubt in my mind that I was the World's Top Stoner. I qualified for the final event of the games by finishing second in Stoner Says and second in the artwork competition—which was disappointing, since I missed out twice on winning one of those beautiful bongs. But what was even more disappointing was missing out on a trip to Amsterdam by the puff of one tiny joint roach.

B.S.

CO₂ SAFETY

Nico was talking about safety in his \$1000 grow article but showed a picture of a CO₂ tank that wasn't chained up to a wall, post, etc. If the tanks tip over, the regulator can snap off and propel the tank through a wall! I learned this while glass-blowing, making pipes when the fire guy came. BTW, I loved the Burmese plant. I'm going to grow some when I get to heaven, in the tropical sun of a place like Hawaii.

Mikey Neides

DRINK GRAPEFRUIT?

I'm a medical student and recently have come across some information that may be a breakthrough. Anyways, grapefruit juice inhibits an enzyme called CYP3A3 and CYP3A4 which helps break down THC. This could mean that drinking grapefruit juice could either sustain the effects longer, or make it more effective.

Sahil

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Cheech & Chong recreate a classic scene from *Up in Smoke*.

Alice Bowie makes a comeback.



Game show shenanigans



TOKIN', SMOKIN' & JOKIN'

Maybe a little grayer and a tad slower, Cheech & Chong are still on the loose and ready to "make a dope deal" with anyone and everyone who comes out to see them. Richard "Cheech" Marin, 62, and Tommy Chong, 70, have been touring with the "Cheech & Chong Light Up America & Canada" reunion show since September, proving once and for all who the real Kings of Ganja Comedy are.

When the lights go down, Cheech struts onstage to music, wearing his iconic outfit—red stocking cap and suspenders with chino pants and wife-beater tank top—then sits down and begins a replication of the one of the best-loved scenes in stoner cinema. It's *Up in Smoke* all over again, with Cheech in the driver's seat of his low-rider and a hitchhiking Chong on the side of the road. It even ends with a police pullover, simulated with the magic of a big-screen monitor and sound effects to match. The show also features comedians Brad Hickey and Blind Melon Chitlin, as well as Tommy's wife Shelby, who warms up the crowd.

It's outlandish, outrageous and out-of-control, chock-full of kick-ass musical numbers, karaoke and classic Cheech & Chong shenanigans.

And guess what? They're *still* on tour. Don't miss these legends!—James N. Currie
Visit cheechandchongtour.com.



Cali weed wipeout

BEACH BUMMER

Looks like somebody really wiped out just north of the US-Mexico border. In San Diego, CA, Border Patrol agents discovered an abandoned fiberglass surfboard in Border Field State Park. When they took a closer look, they found that the board had been hollowed out and glued back together. Stuffed inside was 36 pounds of weed—about \$30,000 worth of pot.

Waves undoubtedly sucked that day. No arrests were made.

CROWNED (POT)HEADS OF EUROPE

It's been said that every time Europe looks across the Atlantic to see the American eagle, it observes only the rear end of an ostrich.

Oh, yeah? Well, every time we look across the Atlantic at you guys, all we see is a whole lotta smoke!

According to a report by the European Monitoring Centre for Drugs and Drug Addiction, 71 million Europeans say they've toked up. That's about one in four citizens. Denmark is the top pot-smoking country, with 36.5 percent of the population between the ages of 15 and 64 admitting to use. France, Britain and Italy rounded out that field. Romania came in last.

As for other recreational drugs, the UK ranks No. 1 for the fifth time in a row as the top coke snorters in the European Union.

So that's where they get that stiff upper lip!

The annual figures show that, overall, 7.7 percent of Britons from the ages of 15 to 64 have used coke, a figure that rises to 11.2 percent for the 15-24 age group and to 12.7 percent for the 15-34 age group. The Brits also take highest honors in Ecstasy and amphetamine use. Spain came in second in all of these categories.

A stoner meltdown causes an NRC investigation.



NUCLEAR NOOGS

Remember *The China Syndrome*? Jack Lemmon and Jane Fonda save California from a nuclear meltdown after a faulty turbine goes kablooeey, nearly causing a radioactive spill. In November, the Oconee Nuclear Station in Seneca, SC, also had a spill. It wasn't radioactive, but everybody *went* nuclear!

It seems that somebody left their stash in the turbine building, in an area accessible to regular employees and contractors. An employee said that he'd found the weed just "lying about" and reported it to security. (This must be where Homer Simpson works.)

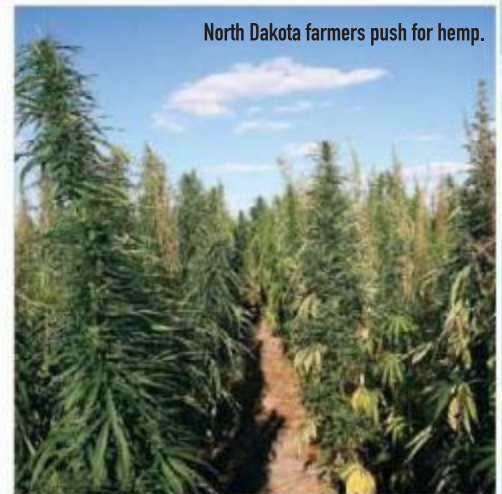
An investigation was launched, and the Nuclear Regulatory Commission was notified, and now everyone wants the pothead's head on a plate. Officials, meanwhile, were trying to live down their shame: "We have never had this issue come up at Oconee," said spokeswoman Sandra Magee. "We are investigating it, and we are considering a number of different activities to address it." "Activities"? Who says nuclear power is unsafe?

CHANGE HAS COME!

With a new Prez, everybody expects a brave new world. Here's a look back and forward.

ISSUE	THE PAST 8 YEARS	THE NEXT 4 YEARS
HEALTH CARE	Some progress: The skyrocketing cost of insurance killed off the weaklings who couldn't cope with the stress of paying their premiums.	Obama will make it happen. You'll never shell out for anything again, from aspirin to a lobotomy. Don't worry—the Good Fairy will pay for everything.
ECONOMICS	Now we know what Grandpa meant when he ranted about the Great Depression.	The national debt currently stands at roughly \$10.6 trillion. "Change you can believe in" means what's left in your pocket.
WAR	Bush declared "Mission Accomplished" in the Iraq War almost six years ago. He did, however, find one weapon of mass destruction—himself!	Obama ran for president on an antiwar platform that emphasized diplomacy. People like that—especially the ones dodging bombs.
BIN LADEN	After seven years, Bush firmly established that Public Enemy No. 1 isn't hiding in the brush in Crawford, TX.	Obama campaigned about stepping up efforts to capture Osama. Was he pandering to the hawks? Maybe. But it's better to focus on the actual enemy than on stealing oil.
FOREIGN POLICY	Lie, bomb, invade, pillage, frighten people out of asking questions, go on vacation. Repeat.	The world adores Obama. He wants to restore dignity to the presidency. We'll settle for someone who speaks in complete sentences.
DOMESTIC POLICY	Kanye West said that George W. Bush "doesn't care about black people." Why stop there? He also didn't care about poor/middle-class white people, habeas corpus, the environment, the economy...	Obama vows change. Give him a chance, everybody—he says he wants to unite us. But does everyone <i>want</i> to be united?
SAME-SEX MARRIAGE	God told Dubya that it would cause chaos in the streets, and that formerly healthy heterosexuals would be infected with a raging case of gay.	Obama believes in ensuring basic civil rights for all citizens, but shies away from the word "marriage" because it's scary to idiots.
THE ENVIRONMENT	It was just one big cash register to the Bush administration, which never understood the term "future generations."	We <i>are</i> the future generation, because we decide the future. Time to get responsible.
CANNABIS	A new dark age of oppression: Legal med-pot dispensaries went down, headshops were hung out to dry, and 800,000 of us were busted last year alone.	We can reasonably expect a more receptive atmosphere for cannabis issues than the past eight years has offered. Our solution? Declare victory now!

North Dakota farmers push for hemp.



HEARTLAND HEMP BATTLE

Two North Dakota farmers are continuing their lawsuit against the DEA in their quest to grow industrial hemp. A US District Court initially dismissed the suit in November 2007, but farmers Wayne Hauge and David Monson have refiled it in the Eighth US Circuit Court of Appeals.

The controversy started when Hauge and Monson (who is also a state legislator) filed paperwork with the DEA for a legal permit to grow hemp in early 2007. Although North Dakota state law allows such cultivation, the DEA turned them down. Why is the DEA, a law enforcement agency, allowed to have the last word in what is clearly an agricultural matter? Because under the federal Controlled Substances Act, hemp is the equivalent of heroin or methamphetamine. It matters little that other nations, such as China or even nearby Canada, enjoy a flourishing hemp industry; the US government continues to insist that hemp is a dangerous drug.

The Justice Department has argued that it is ultimately the responsibility of Congress to change the laws regarding hemp. Meanwhile, a decision on whether Hauge and Monson's lawsuit can move forward is expected in the spring.

SEEDLESS SOPHISTICATION

There's a certain kind of apparel that stoners flock to—comfortable stuff, duds to get toasted in. Seedless Clothing is one of the companies in the booming field of cannabis-related commerce that has dedicated itself to easy-wearing fashions, thereby improving the saggy self-image of hopelessly dressed stoners throughout the world. For over a decade, Seedless has provided hats, hoodies, shirts, pants and a whole mess of girly stuff that proclaim the “seedless” lifestyle. The sleek black shirt featured in the photo is a huge hit—an overt smoke signal to the world proclaiming your stoner sensibility.

By the way, that bong doesn't need a chiropractor: It's the popular Zong, a flashy yet functional piece of smokeware designed to prevent spillage, and it's available at fine tobacco-accessory stores everywhere.

Visit seedlessclothing.com.



Celebrate the smoking lifestyle!

this month in

SHOWBUZZ

HIGH HONORS

Bill “the Spaceman” Lee, the refreshingly honest pitcher who played for the Boston Red Sox and Montreal Expos in the '60s, '70s and '80s, was recently inducted into the Boston Red Sox Hall of Fame. Lee, who says he smoked a joint with George W. Bush back in 1972, was always open about smoking pot throughout his career—and still managed to win 119 games. Upon learning that his former team had awarded its highest honor to him, Lee was surprised, but also amused. “I thought they would wait until I was dead,” he told HT. “I wanted to go in face-down so they could kiss my ass.”



Lee lets loose.

HIGH ON HEDGE FUNDS

Last fall, Andrew Lahde, the founder of Lahde Capital Management, a small California hedge fund, closed up shop with a unique flourish. After his year-old fund returned 866 percent to its investors betting on the collapse of the subprime mortgage market and with his own take estimated to be in the tens of millions, Lahde decided to call it quits, but not before delivering a searing message to those he'd profited from. In a letter circulated upon his departure,



Lahde unloads.

Lahde wrote: “Idiots whose parents paid for prep school, Yale, and then the Harvard MBA, were there for the taking. These people who were (often) truly not worthy of the education they received (or supposedly received)

rose to the top of companies such as AIG, Bear Stearns and Lehman Brothers and all levels of our government. All of this behavior supporting the Aristocracy, only ended up making it easier for me to find people stupid enough to take the other side of my trades.”

Also in the letter (available online), Lahde made an impassioned plea for legalizing hemp and pot: “My only conclusion as to why it is illegal, is that Corporate America, which owns Congress, would rather sell you Paxil, Zoloft, Xanax and other addictive drugs, than allow you to grow a plant in your home without some of the profits going into their coffers.”

THE BEAT STOPS

Mitch Mitchell, the last surviving member of the Jimi Hendrix Experience, died in November of natural causes at the age of 61. Most music historians place Mitchell in the pantheon of rock's great drummers, a man whose work was as essential to the sound of the iconic band as Hendrix's guitar.



Mitch moves on.

MESSAGE FROM THE MAYA

According to the Mayan calendar, we've just entered the Sixth Day of the Galactic Underworld. It's not the latest *Star Wars* installment—it's a time of mass spiritual transformation. The last time this happened, the world got beatniks, hippies and the Age of Aquarius. The European Renaissance popped up on the Sixth Day, too. At this auspicious time, interpreters of the calendar suggest everyone strive to stay true to themselves and become connected to their community and the environment.



The Maya civilization flourished from AD 250 to 900, but waned in the wake of what archaeologists believe was some type of ecological disaster or invasion. Mayan palaces, pyramids and ceremonial edifices still stand throughout Mexico and Guatemala. Their sophisticated understanding of mathematics and astronomy continues to fascinate scientists, while the New Age movement esteems them as a people with secret connections to the cosmos.

Incidentally, the last day of the Mayan calendar is fast approaching: December 21, 2012. The doom-and-gloom crowd swears that this will be the last shopping day before Christmas—ever!

ONE JUICY PINEAPPLE

According to producer Judd Apatow, Brad Pitt's turn as a stoner in *True Romance* was the inspiration behind *Pineapple Express*. Apatow says he “thought it would be funny to make a movie in which you follow that character out of his apartment and watch him get chased by bad guys.”

Uh, Judd? That doesn't sound very funny.

But as it turned out, it was! And now the buddy movie of the new millennium—which rocked the box office last year—is available on DVD. It's a pot-saturated fable of male bonding starring Seth Rogen and James Franco as two lovable but hapless stoners who express their feelings for each other mainly by sticking joints in their mouths and shooting other guys with guns.

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'JAY' IS FOR

JAPAN

For centuries, the Japanese garden has been known as a tranquil refuge from the stresses of daily life. These days, there's a new plant in the garden: Recent media reports state that pot culture and cultivation are booming in Japan, and recent arrests have shown the trend making inroads with every profession and age group in the country.

Observers say that loose regulations and easy cultivation are responsible. Under Japan's Cannabis Control Law, selling or possessing seeds is legal, because they aren't "harmful" and can be used in cooking or as birdseed. But growing them out into psychoactive, smokeable plants is illegal.

According to Japan's Police Agency, a total of 2,271 people were arrested on marijuana charges in 2007, 70 percent of them teenagers or people in their early twenties. That may qualify as a sharp upturn for Japan, but it hardly compares to the 800,000 yearly busts in the US.

High spirits on the rise in the Far East.



THE PHILIPPINE SCENE



In November, the Philippine Marines and the Philippine Drug Enforcement Agency raided a mega-garden of 100,000 mature pot plants in Sulu, an island province of the Philippines. The plants were nearly eight feet tall. Officials have hunches that Abu Sayyaf, a militant Islamist separatist group, is growing marijuana to fund their terror activities. They also suspect that the crops are transported through Malaysia before winding up in Europe.

Sulu Gov. Abdursakur Tan also wants Philippine drug warriors to investigate foreign vessels manned by Chinese nationals in the Sulu Sea. "Our information is that there is a possibility that some of these ships are actually being used as floating shabu (meth) laboratories," Tan says.

MORE CARTEL FANTASIES



Scott Burns.

Last month, Paul Armentano examined the reality behind the Fed's oft-repeated claim that Mexican cartels have invaded California and now operate mammoth pot plantations throughout the state ("High in the Hills," Feb. '09). But what's one big lie when you can tell an even bigger one?

Now the Fed's are claiming that cartels have invaded Utah. Some 90,000 plants were seized in the state's rural areas this season, and so law enforcement has concluded that cartels are responsible! Why? Because Utah is close to Mexico and California.

Obviously, geography isn't the Fed's strong suit—and neither is logic.

Scott Burns, the Deputy Drug Czar at the US Office of National Drug Control Policy, insists that the gardens are operated by cartels from Michoacán, Mexico. Field hands are recruited there and then smuggled into the US to grow weed. Burns said they earn \$5,000 to \$10,000 for three months' work.

So that would be 90,000 plants, grown by an unknown number of alien workers, all making between five and 10 grand. Then there are the costs and risks of smuggling these people into the country, the necessary purchases of cultivation equipment, and the costs of hauling it into the Utah wilds. And don't forget the dicey prospect of transporting pot across open country. Cartels sure do like to do things the hard way.

Nevertheless, with absolutely no credible evidence to back up these claims, Burns predicted that it would take law enforcement "a couple years to send a message: Don't come here."

Two years to defeat a nonexistent enemy seems about right.

ANOTHER CALL TO END PROHIBITION

Thudding onto desks around the world is yet another critical study of our failed War on Drugs. This time, it's the turn of the Beckley Foundation, a United Nations-accredited NGO (nongovernmental organization), to attempt to convince lawmakers to introduce some semblance of sanity to cannabis laws.

The initial focus of *Cannabis Policy: Moving Beyond Stalemate* is health. Unfortunately, the first quarter of the report is pretty heavy going: Little effort is made to separate useless studies from more significant population data, although the report does mention—albeit in passing—landmark studies such as Dr. Tashkin's 2002 cancer trials. The report shows a distinct bias against cannabis use, and a parental tone of disapproval is adopted throughout: Naturally, we shouldn't be using cannabis at all, but if we absolutely must, then we should either vaporize it or eat it.

However, it does honestly conclude that the findings of all the cannabis studies conducted to date are contradictory and inconclusive. What can't be denied, however, is that the marginal, debatable health impacts of cannabis are negligible when compared to the devastating health toll exacted by tobacco and alcohol—two drugs with the UN seal of approval.

The report's proposal for moving beyond the cannabis stalemate finally comes on page 151, and it's satisfyingly radical: Cannabis should be removed from all international drug conventions and "control" schedules—or, failing this, the conventions should be altered to allow de facto legalization. The report proceeds to explore the admittedly unlikely ways in which such reform could take place. The only realistic possibility seems to be denunciation of cannabis prohibition by the UN's member nations. So far, no one has taken that first step.

Will the Beckley Foundation report have any impact ahead of the UN's much-heralded drug-strategy review later this year? Not very likely. The UN Drug Czar, Antonio Marie Costa, has never been swayed by logic, science or the laws of reality. It doesn't help that Costa and his crew of pseudo-crusaders are funded by the DEA, which is trying to compel the UN to endorse another decade of pot prohibition against the wishes of a host of dissenters, now including several heads of state.

The UN may turn a deaf ear once again, but at least this time there will be more voices for the world body to try to ignore.—Brendan Hogan

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**BCNL SUPPORTING
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STAND DOWN

As BC Northern Lights continues to be recognized as the industry leader in indoor gardens, they're proud to recognize two of their star employees as the leading outfit for the band Stand Down. The Vancouver based band has just released their first full length album and have since been leaving a trail blaze of smoke behind them. While on a mission to dominate the metal scene, guitarist (Justin Lacey) and vocalist (Ken Goode) dispense the same amount of energy and passion into building BCNL's indoor gardens as they do while they're onstage. Given their volcanic rapture since the release of "Villains Parade", BC Northern Lights is excited to be a part of Stand Down's success. Buy the album on iTunes Mutherfucker!

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In the Canadian province of Alberta, the city of Calgary has blossomed on the prairie. Marijuana culture has quietly blossomed here as well.

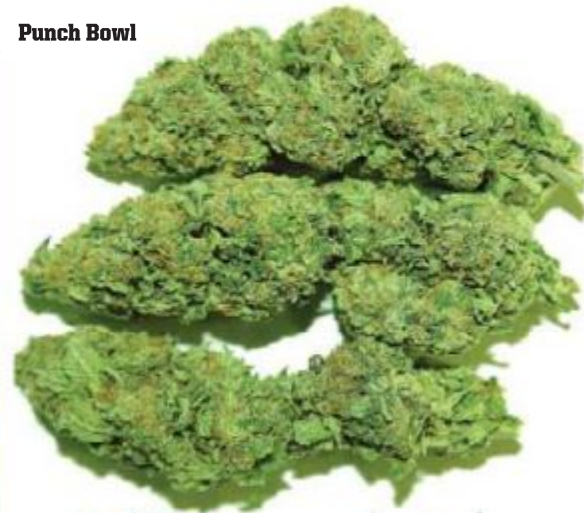


A stoner hacky-sack tournament breaks out on the plains.



The Alberta Cup.

Punch Bowl



Story & photos by Dan Skye

CALGARY CO.

Beyond the two cavernous party tents, bales of hay dot the landscape. The farmland that rolls to the horizon has already begun to turn bland in color—those autumnal, gray-brown hues that linger for months until spring finally arrives here in Calgary. Snow flurries were flying this morning, but the afternoon sun has warmed everything up for the 200-plus stoner judges gathered for the first-ever Alberta Cup.

Each judge has been issued 20 grams of pot—two grams each of 10 different Canadian strains—and the joints are jumping. Little clouds of smoke hover around klatches of tokers before being snapped up by the prairie wind. As night falls and the temperature drops, the Cup shifts to the heated space beneath the two massive, adjoining canvas domes erected by the organizers, who will serve four-course steak dinners, host bands and give away tons of free stoner shit.

But let's get back to the buds. Could this chamber of judges be up to the task of toking three-quarters of an ounce apiece in one night?

Sorry to say, not everybody was. In this epic Canadian cannabis competition—one of the best private Cup events to be pulled off in North America—about 30 percent of the crowd drifted off, faded away or floated home to dreamland well before the noon-to-midnight soiree ended. Thankfully, these

lightweights—an undeniable stain on Canada's sterling stoner reputation—hardly sullied the thriving Calgary pot scene.

The city rises out of the Alberta flatlands, about four hours north of the US border in Montana. The province rolls on like an ocean, and then suddenly, it's there: Calgary, a relatively new city, an oil boomtown whose population has just topped a million. Winters linger long here, cold-weather sports rule, and the mountains are only 90 minutes away.

Everyone says they love this place, and the cannabis community here maintains that the only thing keeping Calgary from breaking out completely is that it's not Toronto or Vancouver—two cities that have tacitly accepted the reality that their citizens can responsibly use and enjoy cannabis.

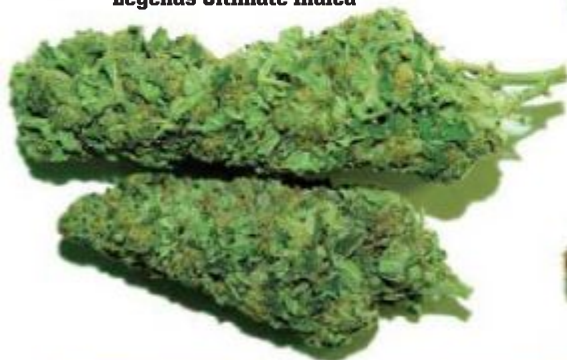
To be sure, a huge toker population exists in Calgary. So do the growers, but their ops are small and discreet. A decade ago, the grow scene was on the rise. But then property values doubled, and harsh laws introduced the possibility of losing one's home and one's children. Naturally, local crops diminished considerably. Law enforcement vigilance has increased, too, especially in the wake of a recent crime wave (unrelated to cannabis) that involved gunplay.

Still, this is Canada. A local medical-marijuana dispensary is tolerated, but monitored closely. A slew of shops that cater to the cannabis lifestyle operate

Sweet Tooth



Legends Ultimate Indica



Sugar Shack



Baby Kush



Lambs Breath x K2



Lady K



Lemon Pine



The only thing keeping Calgary from breaking out completely is that it's not Toronto or Vancouver.

Aisha lights up an Afghani Bullrider spliff.



openly, and most of them have banded together to form a coalition that promotes responsible commerce: no underage sales or crack and coke paraphernalia.

Both 4/20 and the Global Marijuana March are celebrated in Calgary, but the turnout hardly equals that in other parts of Canada. Once again, this is a city of quiet stoners.

Hence, the Alberta Cup required considerable secrecy and a location in the Calgary hinterlands that would remain unannounced until the day of the event. But once the locale was revealed, they came—stoners of all ages, an equal number of men and women. Three of the Cup's 10 entries were Calgary strains; the rest hailed from either Vancouver or Nelson, BC. The top strain, however, won by a landslide. Afghani Bullrider (from Finest Medicinal Seeds in Vancouver) was a succulent, finely formed specimen that clearly out-smoked and out-stoned the rest of the field.

For judges who had the stoner stamina to survive the entire Alberta Cup, the top reggae/hip-hop band Pyrx jammed into the wee hours. Later, outside the tents, a bonfire was ignited. It roared for a while, with sparks sputtering and soaring skyward, blowing away in the direction of the city. Eventually, it was just glowing coals—embers of a night of freedom on the high plains. ✨ Visit calgary420.ca.



THMQ

Trans-High Market Quotations (THMQ) reports pot prices by the ounce, strain and location. To submit prices, go to the THMQ link at hightimes.com.

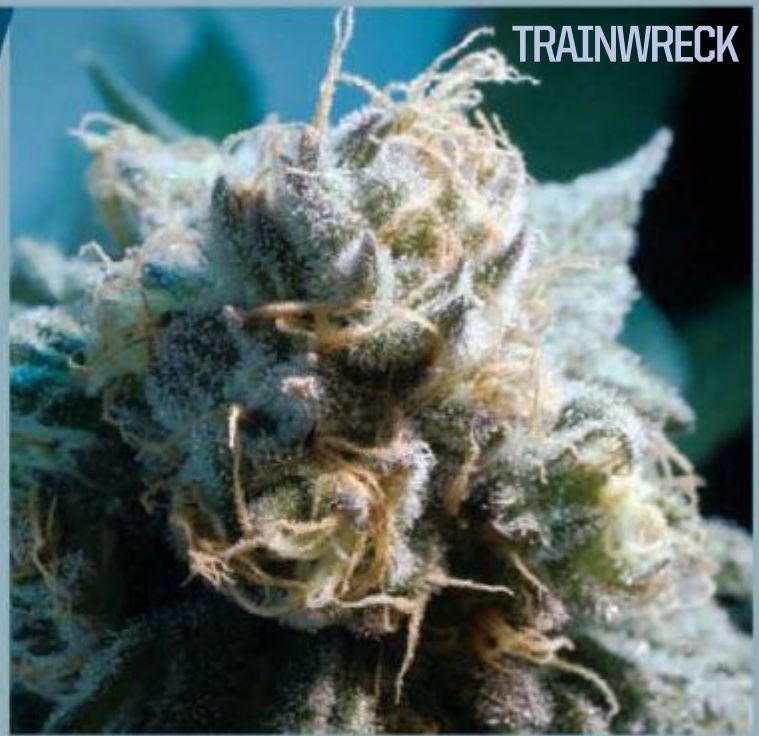
CURRENT US PRICE INDEX: **\$391** (last month: \$364; YTD: \$383)

CURRENT KIND INDEX (\$350+ PER OZ): **\$483** (\$465, \$467)

CURRENT MIDS INDEX (\$150-\$349 PER OZ): **\$259** (\$270, \$264)

CURRENT SCHWAG INDEX (\$1-\$149 PER OZ): **\$93** (\$59, \$82)

STATE	CITY	STRAIN	PRICE
ARKANSAS	Little Rock	Kush	\$450
CALIFORNIA	Bakersfield Santa Cruz	Purple Kush	\$320
		Granddaddy Purple	\$240
		Afghani	\$240
COLORADO	Golden	Mexican	\$60
FLORIDA	Hernando	Mids	\$165
		White Widow	\$400
GEORGIA	Atlanta Snellville	Northern Lights	\$400
		Orange Kush	\$250
ILLINOIS	Oak Park	Northern Lights	\$350
KANSAS	Lawrence	Purple Kush	\$700
MASSACHUSETTS	Boston	NL x Jack Herer	\$400
		Kali Mist	\$400
	South Coast	Snow Poison	\$460
		Sour Diesel	\$500
MICHIGAN	Holland	Lemon Freeze	\$350
MISSOURI	Kansas City	Schwag	\$70
MONTANA	Helena	Northern Lights	\$425
NEBRASKA	La Vista Lincoln	Blond Hash	\$500
		Juicy Fruit	\$300
NEW JERSEY	Hillside	Sweet God	\$500
		Sour Cream	\$500
	Newark New Providence	Hydro	\$300
		Sour Diesel	\$475
		Strawberry Diesel	\$550
Union	LA Confidential	\$500	
NEW MEXICO	Albuquerque	Northern Lights	\$325
NEW YORK	Long Island New York	Trainwreck	\$475
		Sour Diesel	\$550
NORTH CAROLINA	Wilmington	Purps	\$560
OHIO	Cleveland Toledo	Sour Diesel	\$420
		Mids	\$150
OREGON	Eugene	Triple Sec	\$550
		White Haze	\$500
		AK-47	\$500
PENNSYLVANIA	Scranton	Sensi Star	\$500
		Skunk	\$325
TENNESSEE	Hermitage Nashville	Alaskan Thunderfuck	\$420
		Strawberry Cough	\$450
		C99 x AK-47	\$280
TEXAS	Dallas	Granddaddy Purple Kush	\$750
VIRGINIA	Bealeton	Strawberry Cough	\$275
WASHINGTON	North Bend	Bubble Hash	\$1,120
WISCONSIN	Madison	Bubble Jack	\$300
INTERNATIONAL (prices in Canadian dollars or British pounds unless otherwise noted)			
CANADA	St. Catharines Toronto	Viper's Venom	C\$225
		NYC Diesel	C\$220
COSTA RICA	San Jose	Bull Rider x Northern Lights	\$350
UNITED KINGDOM	Hamilton	OG Kush	£250
		Jack Herer	£240



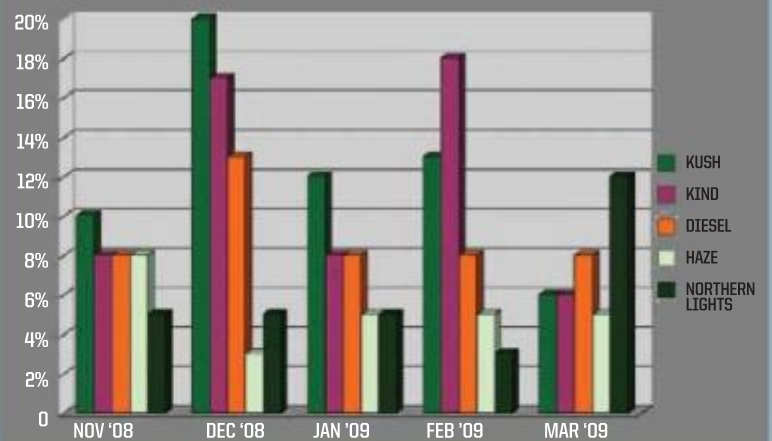
MARKET ANALYSIS

Is it possible that the stoner community's Kush lust has come to an end? After assuming its customary position as the month's most submitted strain in January, Kush has now failed to find the top spot two out of three times in the first quarter of 2009. However, the ballyhooed strain's average price remains close to its year-to-date average. The top five submitted strains (with average price) were: Northern Lights (\$393), Diesel (\$499), Kush (\$430), Purps (\$563) and Strawberry Cough (\$425).

Index Watch: Every index rose from its previous month's average with the exception of Mids. Apparently, February was the month to score your schwag, as it dipped to a paltry \$59 an ounce, before rebounding by \$35 in March.

HIGH TIMES wants to know what you're smoking. Submit your strain information, including location and price by the ounce, to thmq@hightimes.com.

TOP 5 STRAIN PERCENTAGES 11/08 - 3/09



Snow Poison - \$460
Boston, MASSACHUSETTS
"A cross of Snowcap and Durban Poison. It yields a pleasant smoke, very easy on the throat, with an elevating high. Sweet and fruity taste with a tingle to the nose."

Sour Diesel - \$500
South Coast, MASSACHUSETTS
"Beautiful buds with light green coloring, scattered with dark green sugar leaves. Crazy crystal formation and, of course, that trademark Sour Diesel smell and taste."

Lemon Freeze - \$350
Holland, MICHIGAN
"At the moment, Lemon Freeze is the hot nug in Holland, MI."

Hydro - \$300
Newark, NEW JERSEY
"The best weed I've smoked in a long while ... at least since the days of Hawaiian. It wasn't soft; it was kinda compressed, with a lot of crystals. I smoked, choked and laughed. It was a great high."

Strawberry Cough - \$450
Nashville, TENNESSEE
"Medical grade, imported from the Pacific Northwest."

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EsoZone Diary

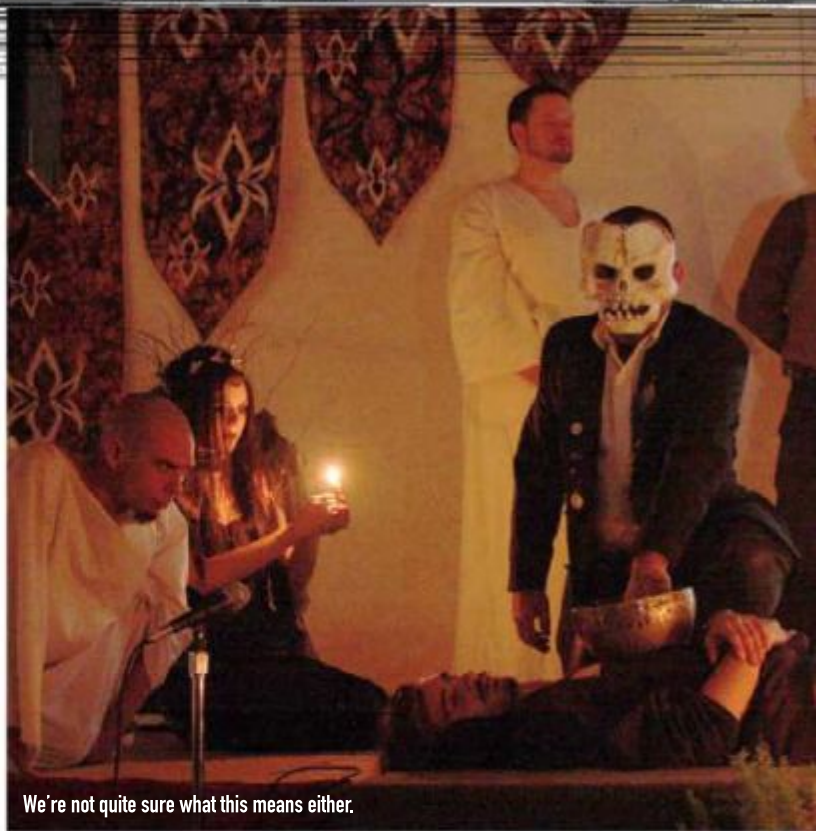
Every year in October, occultists, Satanists, psychedelic alchemists, conspiracy buffs and garden-variety wackos converge in Oregon to discuss the metaphysical future of the world. By Justin Hampton

Friday, October 10: The Assemblage

Behind the Watershed Building in Portland, OR, there's a constant mass of people gathered by a rusted burn barrel. They'll haunt and somehow reflect the lofty, abstruse and stochastic visions discussed during EsoZone, a DIY conference attempting to share information on new developments in occult practice and fringe science. Inside, there's plenty of garish psychedelic art hanging on the walls of a drab enclosure with about 100 chairs facing a stage. Sitting on one is

Nick Pell, one of the festival organizers, who's busily rolling a tobacco/hash spliff. A former straight-edge punk before he discovered magick through William Burroughs, Pell jokes about the conference's origins: "I smoked a bunch of ganj and stared at the Lover's Card for about 45 minutes and was like, 'Oh, I need to get everybody together.'"

Of course, this year's conference is taking place against the backdrop of worldwide financial collapse, which lends the opening address of Wes



We're not quite sure what this means either.

Grass, glass and class.

THE EVOLUTION OF DEL.THA FUNKEE

By John Fortunato

Way back in 1990, when hardcore rap ruled the day, Del tha Funkee Homosapien went against the grain, lampooning the West Coast's thriving ruff-rider gangstas with nerdy middle-class playfulness. Now living outside the pot-friendly environs of Berkeley, CA, in nearby Richmond, Del (born Teren Delvon Jones) returns in top form with *Eleventh Hour*.

An Oakland native, Del was a gifted student interested in comic books and video games, but not averse to petty crime like robbing toy stores. To avoid high-school beatings by more physical troublemakers, he began break-dancing and forming rap battle crews. Soon, Del and his long-time rhyme partner, A-Plus, were squashing fools in talent competitions. After first trying weed at the age of 16, Del expanded his consciousness by using psychedelics—but unlike many word schemers, he never experimented with acid, mushrooms or mescaline during studio sessions or in concert.

"We used MDMA when Ecstasy was pure," Del says in his slurry, guttural drawl. "But it wasn't poppin', like now in the Bay Area—it's their whole

mantra. I like to keep my mind on a certain level before a show. I don't want people seeing me eking out. If I'm recording, I'd be too lit—going off in a corner talking to someone, trying to keep from flying off somewhere."

Influenced by early rap legends like Run DMC, LL Cool J, Big Daddy Kane and the Ultramagnetic MC's, the green hip-hop head came to fruition when his LA-raised cousin, Ice Cube, hooked him up with political zealots Da Lench Mob. Del's promising debut, *I Wish My Brother George Was Here*, shunned the usual ghetto-blasting deliriums in favor of humorous social satire, including the confrontational Afro-cultured parody "Dark Skin Girls" and the silly funk ditties "Mistadabolina" and "Pissin' On Your Steps."

Dissing Ice Cube's Parliament-Funkadelic samples and nascent, Will Smith-derived conversational jesting for his matured '93 follow-up, *No Need for Alarm*, Del created an abstract hip-hop collective, the Hieroglyphics Crew, that became known as a respected techno/house-informed freestyling unit. For his mind-bending 2000 set, *Both Sides of the Brain*, he developed a more forceful delivery and brought on board Company Flow beat designer El-P. Allusions to "herb puffing" imbue the Bob Marley-dropping "BM's" ("We're back in Amster D/Got some grams for me/Chocolate Thai/Purple Haze"). Narcotics also get their props on the coke-dealing freak-out "Soopa Feen" and the cautionary "Skull & Crossbones."



BETHANY WOZNIAK (2)

Unruh, editor of the "occulture" portal Alterati, a definite sense of urgency. "The [reality] presented by mainstream society at this time is shit," Unruh declares, before invoking the need to embrace any means necessary to "break open the mind."

Tonight, the EsoZone attendees will be focused mainly on a fascinating if hysterical talk by Alex Ansary, who predicts a nightmare scenario in the near future involving food shortages and an invigorated Russia and China turning the US into their mutual bitch after a "false flag" event precipitates a war with Iran. Even wilder is conspiracy theorist Clyde Lewis, who sees 9/11 as a magical working meant to shut off America's connection to its sustaining divine force. Listening to all this makes one feel that the bookseller in the back should be selling water-purification tablets alongside the salvia.

Saturday, October 11: A Pagan Day
After the breakcore pillow fight (which I missed), everyone's late to the party, including the speakers. When they do finally show up, there's a *very* loose discussion of radionics—technological/spiritual devices in which the results cannot be objectively measured. Church of Satan member and scary-looking dude Rex Church talks about a formidable demon-summoning machine he's making called the Ragnarok Engine, which (I presume)

'Take whatever drugs and do whatever rituals you need to do to get in touch with that higher energy, and then get out of the way. Let the energy be your boss.'

vironmental collapse, and the magical he locates in the use of psychoactives echoes the embrace of chaos urged in previous talks.

When midnight tolls, the Black Mass begins. A silent procession of EsoZone's organizers, carrying briefcases, candles and golden apples, enters onstage, and for a second, everyone appears in sync. Everyone knows, without being told, what is expected of them. As the various monologues uttered by specific players in the procession drone on, the spell wears off, but one was definitely cast—which was all we came for anyway.

Sunday, October 12: The Anticlimax
At this point, the conference has broken down in terms of enthusiasm: Visionary artist Paul Lafolley may be a fascinating theorist, but he's an interminable public speaker,

HOWOSAPIEN

Around this time, Del discovered Amsterdam's lenient and liberal aboveground community: "In Amsterdam, we had so much bomb we were being stupid, rolling the fattest joints," he avows. "We went to Christian's little flea market—they're selling weed and 'shrooms. Coffeehouses

'Weed's not so severe, but you gotta know your boundaries, have restraint, or drugs'll control you till you ain't doing *it* anymore, *it's* doing *you*.'

had all different strains." However, upon returning to the far less tolerant USA, he quickly found himself in trouble at the airport for a minor drug infraction.

"I was so smarmy about it," he recalls, "[customs agents] must've assumed we had weed 'cause my boy Kwame had dreadlocks. So they strip-searched us. They asked to see my wallet, and I had a little hash crumb in there. I laughed and said, 'You gotta be tripping. Just

throw it away. Or smoke it.' They said it was a federal offense distributing drugs. Kwame paid \$400 before they let me leave."

Surprisingly, despite this encounter, Del doesn't agree with legalizing marijuana or other drugs. His reasoning has more to do with distrust of the general public's capacity for immature, habitual abuse than support for some ridiculous government agenda.

"People'd be playin' the fool too much," he opines. "Weed's not so severe, but you gotta know your boundaries, have restraint, or drugs'll control you till you ain't doing *it* anymore, *it's* doing *you*. I ain't gonna front, but you don't know what's gonna happen with somebody. I've been to a rave where kids be poppin' X—but I saw these same kids at another show and they were like, 'You know that time we were X'ing at that rave? Our friend died.' You never know, foolin' wit' crazy shit. If drugs are legal, it'll be a full-blown gamble. People'd buy all they want."

As for Del's current narcotic intake: "I'm not into it as much now," he claims. "As I grew, I had more business to take care of, so I couldn't be lit all the time." ✨



Contemplating the infinite at EsoZone 2008.

I'm safe from as long as I don't believe in demons. Perhaps this stuff counts more as pseudoscience than "fringe" science—but that's a fight I won't live to see resolved.

More interesting to me is Antero Alli and his discussion of Timothy Leary's eight-circuit brain model, a concept roughly analogous to the chakra system. Later in the night, conspiracy theorist and Rainbow Gathering vet Freeman pairs David Icke's reptilian bloodline with Sirian extraterrestrials as the Bad Guys—and manages to make a surprisingly plausible case for Anna Nicole Smith as a mind-controlled sex slave.

Dr. Dennis McKenna—Terence's brother—is the last of the speakers, and he brings a far more sober take on the subjects of ayahuasca, mushrooms, and the symbiosis of plants, agriculture and human evolution. McKenna evokes the specter of en-

and attendance is way down. A hastily assembled panel attempts to summarize the previous days' proceedings, and a statement by Antero Alli makes the most sense: "Take whatever drugs and do whatever rituals you need to do to get in touch with that higher energy, and then get out of the way. Let the energy be your boss."

Considering the wolves at America's door, one might be disappointed by the lack of a more forceful, cohesive vision at the conference. Earlier in the day, organizer Clint Finley emphasized a more modest perspective. "There's no one point of view that we're pushing here," he said. "And even if somebody came here and didn't agree with anything that anyone had to say, I think they would still get a lot out of the event—just by being challenged to think in a different way." ✨

Bart Schneider: REEFER WRITER

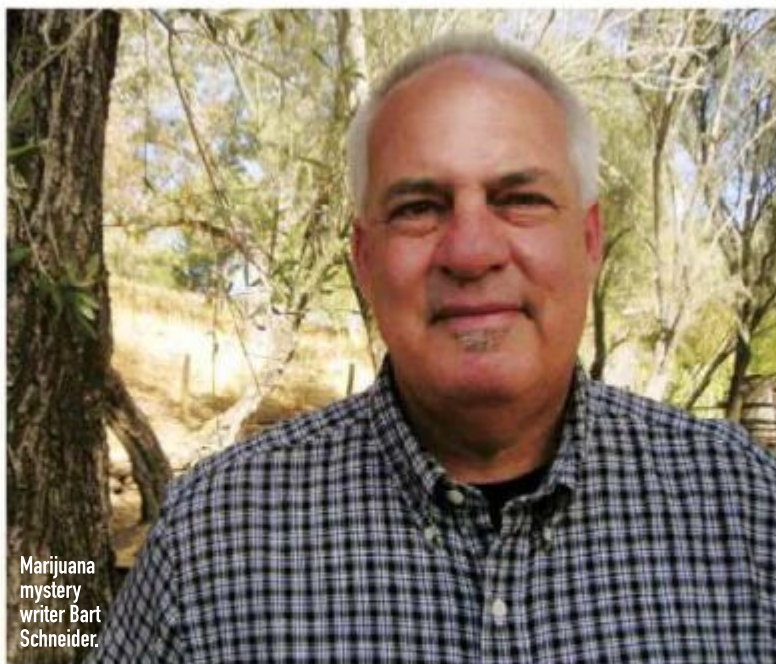
Interview by Jonah Raskin

Bart Schneider is a big, gentle fellow who, although he's a social animal, lives by himself in a "pad," as he calls it, with photos of Allen Ginsberg and posters of Charlie Parker on the walls. I first heard about Schneider and his detective novel, *The Man in the Blizzard*, from a marijuana dealer who'd read it while tending his pot garden. I borrowed his well-worn copy, plunged in headfirst, and immediately dug the novel's mix of sex, drugs and rock-'n'-roll. Schneider's private eye, August Boyer (a.k.a. "Augie"), is awfully lovable: He blasts the Ramones and dates a high-powered female attorney who's prepared to post bail if he gets busted for possession. And that could happen at any moment, since Augie's bong is always filled with a New Orleans-grown strain known as Pontchartrain Pootie.

Poetry and pot punctuate Schneider's story, which is set in Minnesota and features an assortment of anarchists, right-wing Republicans and native-born American Nazis. Augie's 70-year-old hipster dealer, Conrad, sells him ounces for \$275; his twentysomething rock-singer daughter, Rose, gets high with him. What's more, Augie's tattooed, body-pierced assistant, Blossom, is an ex-con and an ex-junkie. Since I could relate to Augie's extended family, I thought I might also relate to the writer who created it.

So I drove to the town of Sonoma, CA, in the Valley of the Moon, where the sun and the soil make for great grapes and sensational sinsemilla. On the day of our interview, growers and farmers were harvesting their cash crops, and along the back roads, the smell of grapes and marijuana hung heavy in the air.

In *The Man in the Blizzard*, your private eye smokes marijuana. He calls himself "a pothead existentialist." Why a stoned detective? There are many hard-drinking detectives, like Philip Marlowe, and they're usually arrogant. My private eye is reflective and has a healthy sense of the absurd. He wants to solve the crime, but he gets sidetracked—he reads poetry and he's thoughtful. He investigates his own soul as he investigates the crime.



Why the title for your novel? What does it mean?

It comes from a poem, "The Man in the Blizzard," by Thomas McGrath. The blizzard in the title of my book is a metaphor for a lot of things. The detective fights his way through a blizzard of clues, and the blizzard is also the pot smoke that surrounds him.

Who the hell is Thomas McGrath?

He's a greatly sensual and intensely radical American poet who ought to be more widely known than he is. In the 1950s, he was suspected of being a communist and investigated. He told Congress to fuck off. I met him and heard him read his poetry one night—he wore a leather glove on one hand, and a cigarette dangled from the corner of his mouth.

Drugs and poetry have gone together since time immemorial. What do you make of that?

Well, the creative impulse is a high all its own. Those of us who have the habit of creating heightened experiences through the imagination don't mind pushing the heights a little higher.

To create the character of Augie, did you draw on your own experience?

Yes. I share Augie's introspection: He wonders about himself and his life. I like to think I'm as soulful as he is. I'm more politically involved than he, and I don't have his sexual dysfunction. He also smokes way more weed than I do—it works for me not to be stoned *all* the time.

'You mean cops don't smoke weed? Get real, man.'

What's your own drug history?

I was born in San Francisco and went to high school there in the 1960s. There was something permissive in the atmosphere. Marijuana was a part of the scene; it was everywhere.

Were you a cut-up?

I was a cut-out—I'd leave class and sneak under the bleachers of the football field to smoke weed. Someone was always there smoking, and no one was ever busted. It was a tough place to have to go to school, because you could look out and see the Pacific Ocean.

Were you in San Francisco for the Summer of Love?

Yeah, I was 16 years old. I went to the Human Be-In in Golden Gate Park and saw Allen Ginsberg naked. Before then, I played football—but then I started to do acid and, after that, football seemed absurd. I dropped quite a bit of LSD.

Did you have bad trips?

Not really, though I was at Altamont when the Rolling Stones played and the Hells Angels stabbed someone. But I was so far away from the stage that I didn't know it was happening. A guy in an Uncle Sam costume walked around with a Frisbee that had tabs of acid. "Take one," he said. The acid came on about the same time that Mick Jagger ap-

peared onstage, and there seemed something magical about him. I remember that trip as sweetness and gentleness—I could hear 100 intimate conversations all at the same time.

Were you a hippie?

I was a *hipster*. At 15, I started to listen to jazz and fell in love with John Coltrane, Miles Davis and Dizzy Gillespie. I was rebelling against my father, who played violin and classical music in the San Francisco Orchestra. I went to the jazz clubs on Fillmore and, for \$7, I would sit there all night, smoke a pipe and listen to the best music in the world.

Do you write when you're high?

I usually don't, because I tend to get distracted on pot. But sometimes I smoke and rewrite what I've written. What's surprising is that I'm able to cut right through a lot of shit—I see how clumsy my language is, and I slash it.

Your private eye is friendly with a police officer named Sabbatini. They smoke weed together. How real is that?

You mean cops don't smoke weed? Get real, man. A detective needs a sidekick, and Sabbatini is the perfect sidekick for Augie: He gives him information from police-department files, *and* he introduces him to poetry.

How do you feel about the Drug War?

I think it's absurd that hundreds of thousands of people are in prison for possession of marijuana. It's ridiculous, all those stories that marijuana is the gateway drug to heroin. ✨



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Going ... Going ... Gonzo!

Gonzo: The Life and Work of Dr. Hunter S. Thompson
Directed by Alex Gibney
(Magnolia Home Entertainment)

HUNTER S. THOMPSON
The Gonzo Tapes
(Shout Factory)

Gonzo is a top-shelf, high-energy documentary on the late, great Hunter S. Thompson. A successful doc is often only as good as its archival sources, and director Alex Gibney has tracked down some extraordinary material: from television footage of the writer as a young, unknown journalist to a fascinating song written and recorded by Hunter and his graphic collaborator, artist Ralph Steadman. The film is now available on DVD and includes deleted interviews with former president Jimmy Carter, conservative pundit Pat Buchanan and *Rolling Stone* co-founder Jann Wenner, as well as audio from Johnny Depp, Bill Murray and Jack Nicholson and scenes from Hunter's maharajah-esque funeral.

One of Gibney's most effective devices is the use of the author's person-



Live by the gun, die by the gun.

al cassette tapes. "Tape recording for Hunter was essential," says his literary executor, historian Douglas Brinkley. While capable of taking impressively succinct notes, Thompson—in keeping with the participatory ethic of Gonzo journalism—needed his hands free much of the time. (Taking notes

on a moving Harley can be a challenge.) His cassette accounts of the *Hells Angels* and *Fear and Loathing in Las Vegas* trips animate the doc with the master's voice.

Producer Don Fleming has also compiled *The Gonzo Tapes*, a five-CD box set that serves as a companion to the film. In addition to the *Hells Angels* and *Fear and Loathing* material, we hear a 'shrooming Hunter free-associating a very funny novel/screenplay called

Guts Ball and inventing, with activist-attorney Oscar Zeta Acosta, a run-in with Henry Kissinger to be pitched to *Rolling Stone*. Oddly, the self-described "dope fiend" was skeptical of cocaine—until the latter publication assigned him to review Freud's *Cocaine Papers*. Hunter naturally had to do some research, and we are privy to the epic coke binge that launched his subsequent copious snorting. The fifth disc features the most historical tracks: Hunter's coverage of the fall of Saigon, and thus the end of the Vietnam War. While this collection is not for the earthbound, it's absolutely mandatory for HST fans.—Michael Simmons

EARTHLESS

Live at Roadburn
(Tee Pee)

Everything about Earthless' two-disc *Live at Roadburn* screams "early '70s"; the album title and cover art, the extra-long and thick songs, even the very name of the band that conjured this 90-minute instrumental psych exploration.

In true '70s unplanned genius fashion, the show came about only because the headliner for the Roadburn Festival in Tilburg, Holland, cancelled, forcing the promoters to ask Earthless to fill the slot. *Live at Roadburn* captures the triumvirate rising to the challenge.

Disc one opens with the aptly titled "Blue," and astral-blues jamming soon dominates the soundscape, before finally giving way to the adventurous riffage on "From the Ages," which seems ideally suited to serve as the soundtrack for a classic Jack Kirby comic book.

Disc two opens with the off-kilter, jazzy blues of "Godspeed" until the dynamic prog resumes. Then an electro-spacey interlude morphs into some serious J-psych jamming on album closer "Sonic Prayer."

The San Diego-based power trio is overtly influenced by Japanese psychedelia bands like Acid Mother Temple. There are some interesting echoes of Sabbath here (whose original name was Earth), as well as Blue Cheer and Hawkwind.

This is music to toke up to and get lost in. Best of all: Even if you space out and find yourself contemplating everything from navel lint to the unseen dimension right next door, Earthless will still be dispensing a psych meltdown for you to rejoin anytime you're ready.—Mark Miller



KOTTONMOUTH KINGS

The Green Album
(Suburban Noise Records)

Fusing their unique and infectious combination of punk rock and hip-hop into songs for stoners and anthems for social justice, the Kottonmouth Kings celebrate over a decade of recording and relentless touring with their 10th full-length studio release, *The Green Album*. Once again, the Kings get royally lit and—from the CD artwork to the song titles and content—deliver the bud-soaked bounty that their rabid fans demand.

Founder Daddy X supervises the scene, overseeing the emceeing by lyricists D-Loc and Johnny Richter. Visual Assassin Pakelika keeps the mind open and the vape well packed, while the shadowy Taxman riles up listeners with distorted singsong choruses that are impossible to forget. With DJ Bobby B on the "wheels of steel" and percussionist Lou Dog on the most unique drum kit you'll ever see—functioning "low-rider" bikes tricked out to keep the beat—the Kings destroy their critics and empower their fans with a positive, pot-laced message.

On *The Green Album*, they wear their underground status with pride, secure in the knowledge that real music lovers don't want to be spoon-fed corporate pap. Songs like "Blaze of Glory," "Pack Your Bowls," "Puff n Tuff" and "Plant a Seed" continue the Kottonmouth Kings' legacy of fighting for the rights of marijuana users. On top of their extensive cannabis activism, they also find time to encourage environmentally conscious alternatives and civil rights for all. Take a listen to this group of conscious stoners wreaking havoc and you'll find out why these Kings rule!—Danny Danko



EAGLES OF DEATH METAL

Heart On
(Downtown Records)

The Eagles of Death Metal's third album in five years proves to be their most focused and durable yet. An auxiliary outfit for Queens of the Stone Age frontman Josh Homme (rhythm guitar/bass/percussion) and his California desert bud Jesse Hughes (lead vocal/guitar), this playful duo ransacks the past and returns with plunder for contemporary rock enthusiasts. Duping the Rolling Stones circa *Sticky Fingers* and *Exile on Main Street* (right down to Mick's slurry vocal swagger and Keith's loose but funky grooves), the playfully titled "Heart On" kicks butt every bit as hard as Homme's primary stoner-rock outfit.

Sure, there are lots of times when it's easy to name the exact Stones song from which these childhood chums have ripped their guitar figures. But rarely, if ever, have they been served up with such sonic force and penetrating flair, sidestepping formulaic monotony by hitting an inescapable basic groove that's impossible to resist. Ruggedly soulful honky-tonk scramblers like "(I Used to Couldn't Dance) Tight Pants" and "Anything 'Cept the Truth," as well as the trundling title track, admirably resurrect the Glimmer Twins' fertile early-'70s epoch.

Yet despite this obvious emulation (and the band's silly, dismissive moniker, which intentionally overstates their volatile heaviness), the Eagles of Death Metal display a commendable instrumental clairvoyance all their own that keeps the music compelling.—John Fortunato





Medicinal use

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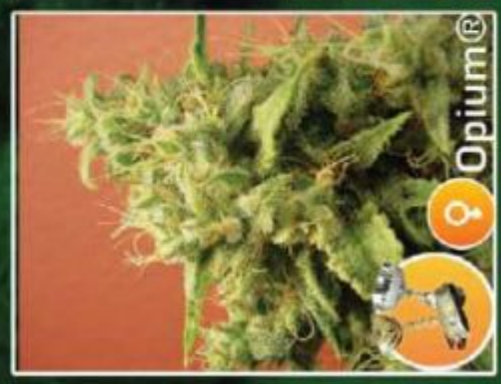


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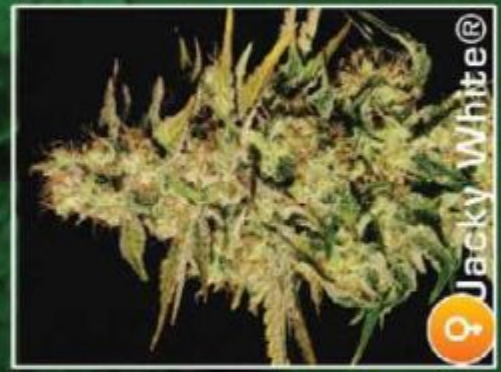
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BY BOBBY BLACK

LET FREEDOM RING

Bobby rocks the Cradle of Liberty at the 19th Annual Boston Freedom Rally.

During last year's election, vice presidential candidate Sarah Palin was fond of saying that the *real* America can be found in small rural towns—attempting to demonize more diverse, urban states like New York and Massachusetts. Which is ridiculous, considering that New York was once our nation's capital, and Massachusetts is practically the birthplace of America. In fact, it's in Massachusetts that the battle for our civil liberties continues to be waged—be it the right of gays to marry, or the right of a responsible adult to smoke a joint. So I was honored when, last September, I was invited by the Massachusetts Cannabis Reform Coalition to speak at their annual Freedom Rally at Boston Commons.

Things had been coming to a boil in Beantown for months. For the third time in the past decade, the city had attempted to suppress the rally by issuing MassCann a permit that didn't allow for food vending, which is essential in funding the event. In response, MassCann

got out there and vote—and vote 'yes' on Question 2!"

Danny spoke next and, along with MassCann's Steve Epstein, helped usher in 4:20 with chants of "No Cuffs for Cannabis!" Then Graveyard BBQ ended the event with a killer set that brought all the day's speakers and organizers back onstage for a final head-banging hoorah.

Before driving home on Sunday, I set out to walk the Freedom Trail—a red line running through the streets that begins at the Commons and links many of the city's most famous historical sites. I passed statues of Benjamin Franklin and Paul Revere, the Old North Church and Old Granary Burying Ground, and ended my journey into the past by smoking a joint at Boston Harbor. It was here, back in 1773, that a group of radical activists protested against unjust taxes and unfair treatment by their government by dumping a shipment of tea into the sea—in effect, kick-starting the American Revolution.



Left: Bobby speaks to the crowd. Right: Graveyard BBQ's Howlin' Jack Boone and Rick Cusick hit the "Yes on #2" joint.

filed for an injunction against the city and—as in the past—won the case. But a much bigger political battle was still brewing—namely Question 2, a ballot initiative that would decriminalize possession of up to an ounce of weed, making it a violation punishable by a \$100 fine rather than arrest. The initiative had been polling at close to 70 percent public approval, which of course had local law enforcement and religious leaders fuming.

I hit the Commons at noon on Saturday and helped my co-workers Rick Cusick and Danny Danko set up the HIGH TIMES booth, where we spent most of the day selling HT gear and fraternizing with the fans. I'd been to the rally once before (three years ago), but the gorgeous weather and the excitement over Question 2 amplified this year's attendance and energy level. There were over a dozen musical acts performing, including a Southern-style metal group called Graveyard BBQ, who invited me onto their bus for a smoke-out. By the time I emerged half an hour later, blazed and dazed, it was time for me to take the stage.

"This rally is an amazing testament to what we can do," I shouted to the nearly 10,000-strong crowd. "It's proof that stoners can get together and have a great time, and we're no danger to society, we're no danger to anybody—we can party and have fun and be responsible people. Stoners vote too, man! So

As kids, we're all taught in history class that these were the noble actions of citizens standing up for their liberty. Yet today, if people committed similar acts, they would be labeled domestic terrorists and traitors.

We must never let hypocrites like Sarah Palin and George Bush define what it means to be a "real" American in terms of obedience to authority, the color of our collar or the size of our city. Instead, let us remember that we are a nation founded by intellectuals and rebels, that our diversity is what makes us great, and that the true patriot is the citizen who is courageous enough to risk his or her own safety and reputation to speak out against injustice and oppression. *That* is the true spirit of America, and the spirit that we celebrated on the Commons that sunny September day.

Six weeks later, on November 4, the McCain/Palin ticket was soundly defeated, and Question 2 passed by a margin of nearly two to one, making the Commonwealth of Massachusetts the 13th state to decriminalize marijuana (among the others, ironically: Palin's home state of Alaska). Hmm ... 13 states for legalization, 13 original colonies—could that be another revolution I smell brewing? Or is it just the tea? 🍃

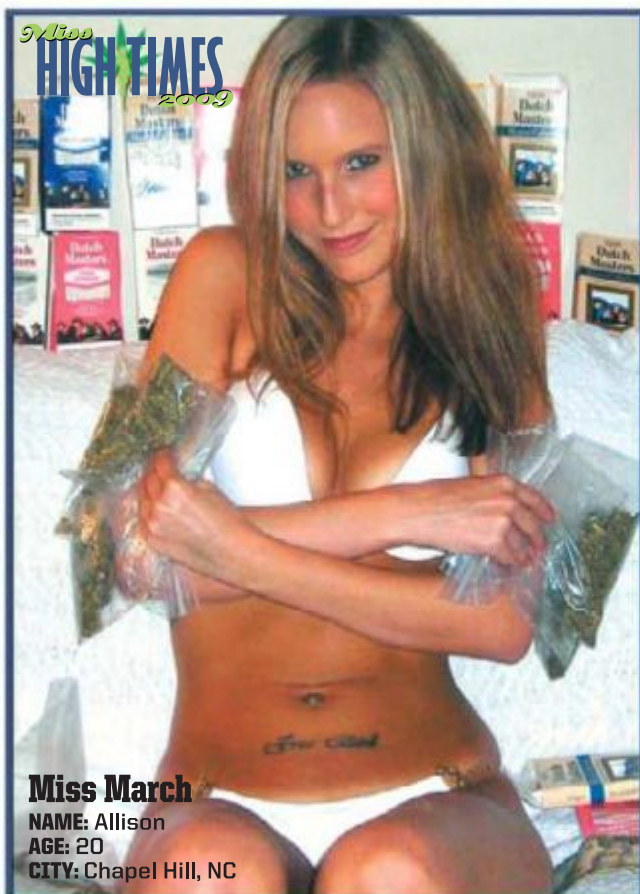
See videos from the rally at hightimes.com/tags/boston_freedom_rally.



vaporella's hit of the month

I have to pull a Bobby Black this issue and use my own mug as the Hit of the Month. This was my costume for New York City's annual Halloween Parade, and as you can see, it sure did get a lot of attention! Even from New York's finest. Sure it's a little blurry, but I only had a good two seconds to take the shot before the nice officer here inquired about where that stinky, sweet smell I was giving off was actually coming from. (Hint: not the costume.)

Want a pot-leaf costume of your very own? Contact the Weedman at myspace.com/highdimes. He creates each one using fabric made from 100 percent recycled milk jugs—which means you're green to the second power! (I added the lights myself for that snazzy green glow.) You'll not only be the hit of the party, you'll also get a few as well.



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A TOUCH OF SATIVA

BY PAUL KRASSNER



Michael Rossman. 1939–2008.

joint, you inhaled not simply some smoke, but you inhaled this whole complex of cultural attitudes: not only opposition to the Vietnam War, but a liking for madras bedspreads, an inclination to taste new and interesting foods, to feel less guilty about cutting class, to disrespect authority more, because they were trying to make you a criminal for having these experiences and changes of perspective.

You may never have heard of Michael Rossman, but he was an inspiration to a lot of young people in the 1960s, when he became an organizer of the Free Speech Movement that started at the University of California's Berkeley campus and rapidly spread to colleges across the country. Michael served as a social and political activist for decades, but didn't take himself as seriously as the causes he fought for.

He once spent nine weeks behind bars, where he was assigned to the garbage detail. However, the punishment didn't bother him the way his jailers had intended, since he happened to lack a sense of smell, a fact he disclosed in his first book, *The Wedding Within the War*. (His other books include *On Learning and Social Change* and *New Age Blues: On the Politics of Consciousness*.)

Only nine days before his recent death from leukemia, Michael showed up at the Bolshevik Café celebration held on the UC Berkeley campus. He took the stage, accompanied by his oxygen tank, and proceeded to recite a magnificent poem that he'd written as a way of saying goodbye to his family and friends. Here is one of my favorite stanzas from that poem, "Dear Body, Dear Body Mine":

Thank you lungs for providing such rich oxygenation all along beyond the norm, for allowing the touch of *sativa* to lift my spirit in play, for forgiving so many insults, for letting me lug down malachite breccias from high on Mt. Majuba before I went in hospital.

In 2007, celebrating the 40th anniversary of the Summer of Love, Michael reminisced about pot smoking and the early days of the counterculture:

"The thing about weed and political action—in that era, when you sucked on a

When you made millions of young people criminals this way, on the narrow issue of whether they could put this plant's smoke or that plant's smoke in their bodies, you corrupted their attitudes about a whole lot in the culture.

"This was a time when still, in order to smoke marijuana, we locked the front door, turned out all the lights, crowded in the bathroom and stood around the toilet, ready to flush if the cops were going to knock on the door. We got high, went out, and looked at M.C. Escher and listened to Bach with a new ear. So when the Haight emerged as a place where people smoked marijuana openly, it was a deeper kind of transgression and statement of liberation than can be understood in this day, or by people who didn't live through that time. God knows, it drove the authorities nuts."

I once wrote about Timothy Leary arguing that anti-Vietnam War demonstrators "played right onto the game-boards of the administration and the police alike, and that students could shake up the establishment much more if they would just stay in their rooms and change their nervous systems." Then I added: "But it wasn't really a case of either-or. You could protest *and* explore your 13-billion-celled mind simultaneously. During the mass imprisonment of Free Speech Movement demonstrators, a Bible which had been soaked in acid solution easily made its way into the jail cells, with students just eating those pages up, getting high on Deuteronomy, tripping out on Exodus."

The last time I saw Michael Rossman was in 2004, at the 40th anniversary of the Free Speech Movement. He'd asked some of the participants whether the tale of the LSD-soaked Bible smuggled into jail was true, and had verified that it was only a rumor. So I promised to retract that story.

Now I've kept that promise. ✨

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ALL ABOUT

The HIGH TIMES Cultivation Department recently tapped our R&D facility to run a few experiments for us in our West Coast laboratories. The goal was to take a closer look at grow boxes and what they can offer. A few big-name companies were kind enough to donate their full lines to our labs, where we ran the systems from start to finish to give our readers a complete run-down on what to expect and how best to optimize the performance of these boxes. Our first feature focuses on the gear from BC Northern Lights. Stay tuned for future segments! **BY BLUNT BROS. LABS**

In an ideal world, we'd all be growing in greenhouses with all of the latest gear on the market. We'd have all the time in the world to figure out and play with our grow toys. In an ideal world, there'd even be a personal Cultivation Tech-Support Hotline that we could call whenever we had a question.

The reality is that few of us have greenhouses or even a yard. Most of us live in cities, and many of us rent. Some of us may even have roommates.

The reality is that even though we enjoy smoking herb in our time off work, most of us are responsible types with day jobs. Now, some people—no doubt—are so hardcore that they will watch television with their plants, sleep with their plants, and even go to bed according to their plants' schedules on a mattress underneath their flood tables. However, there is an easier way ...

Functionality, Accessibility & Support

Currently, there are several companies out there manufacturing cabinet-based grow systems. For the purposes of this report, we focused on BC Northern Lights (BCNL), one of the larger manufacturers in the industry.

To start, growers with the least amount of space to spare will likely opt for the BloomBox, an all-in-one cabinet that includes a separate chamber for a mother plant and clones. The Producer cabinet doubles the number of plant sites from nine to 18 and adds a second 400-watt bulb. The Mothership box complements the Producer as a stand-alone vegetation chamber. If you're looking to grow more weed than you can smoke, BC Northern Lights also offers combinations of products that have the potential to generate pounds of bud per harvest without taking up your entire bedroom.

BCNL boxes are not repurposed cabinets, but rather start out in the factory as flat sheets of metal (nice powder-coated aluminum, in fact). The electrical work is very clean, all fans are of the axial variety, and the cabinet doors have key locks. Both the BloomBox and the Producer separate the light and grow chambers with glass. Carbon-dioxide enrichment is as easy as buying a tank of CO₂, since these boxes come equipped with a dispersion system that keeps the CO₂ level around 1,600 ppm. The CO₂ is injected by a timer system for seven seconds every seven minutes.

Each cabinet is equipped with a programmable controller, which top-feeds the plants twice a day and also controls the light cycles and the aforementioned CO₂ cycles of each cabinet. In the



Multiple Producer units can fit in a single room if you're feelin' the need for extra green.

event of a power failure, the boxes will not lose their memory, and the light system automatically waits until the bulb is ready to power back up. The Lumatek digital ballasts that come standard with each unit are another great feature, since they're designed to accept either metal halide (MH) or high-pressure sodium (HPS) bulbs that swap out easily through the tops of the boxes.

There was probably a day not too long ago when the thought of calling a technical-support hotline to ask for help with growing your ganja plants might have made you laugh. Well, those days are gone. Not only does BC Northern Lights offer tech support over the phone, but the instruc-

tions (both online and in the manuals) are detailed and well-written. The BCNL website (bcnorthernlights.com) even has downloadable PDF files on exactly how each unit works. In general, the BCNL cabinets are both easy to maintain and relatively forgiving of mistakes.

Regardless of where you live on this planet, so long as there's a road or ocean near you, BCNL will box up all of the gear and nutrients you need, wrap them up onto a pallet, and ship it over sea or land to your location. We do, however, recommend using the "delivery-for-pickup" option, as some truck drivers might be familiar with the term "Northern Lights." Who would have guessed?



ROW BOXES



Ideal garden canopy height is 6" below glass lens with colas coming within 2".

Plant Height

Cabinet growing demands particular attention to plant height. While topping off and bending can be used to manage the overall height, an infrared (laser) leaf-temperature sensor can be an invaluable tool for determining whether or not your canopy is happy. Plant biologists will tell you that photosynthesis is optimized at 76°F, and that leaf temperature is a more efficient measurement for setting proper light-to-plant distances than some arbitrarily defined distance. Since they cost only \$50, a leaf-temperature sensor offers a simple and affordable technique for determining the proper size of your plants.

Because the roots grow into the reservoir, which is impressively oxygenated with four 12-inch air stones, the plants' root-balls gain strength and structure. This allows for vigorous plant growth above the surface. If you do a prolonged vegetative cycle, plants in these grow boxes tend to get large. Depending on the grower's needs, care must be taken to achieve the optimal garden size.

To be clear, growing plants in a confined space can be more challenging than in an open space due to the possibility of overgrowing. In the same way that mountains have tree lines, there exists a vertical plant-height limit in the grow boxes. In our tests, the lights generated impressive resin at all heights, even up to the glass. But there is a plant height above which the cola top hairs become less than ideal and the leaf tips begin to curl. Trials showed this line to be about two-thirds the height of the available grow space. But even when the cola hairs take a hit, and even with buds nearing the glass, the digital 400s in these cabinets—given the proper temperature control—always seem to generate huge amounts of resin. For this reason, it's surprisingly difficult to ruin a crop.

USING GROW BOXES

Ducting & Ventilation

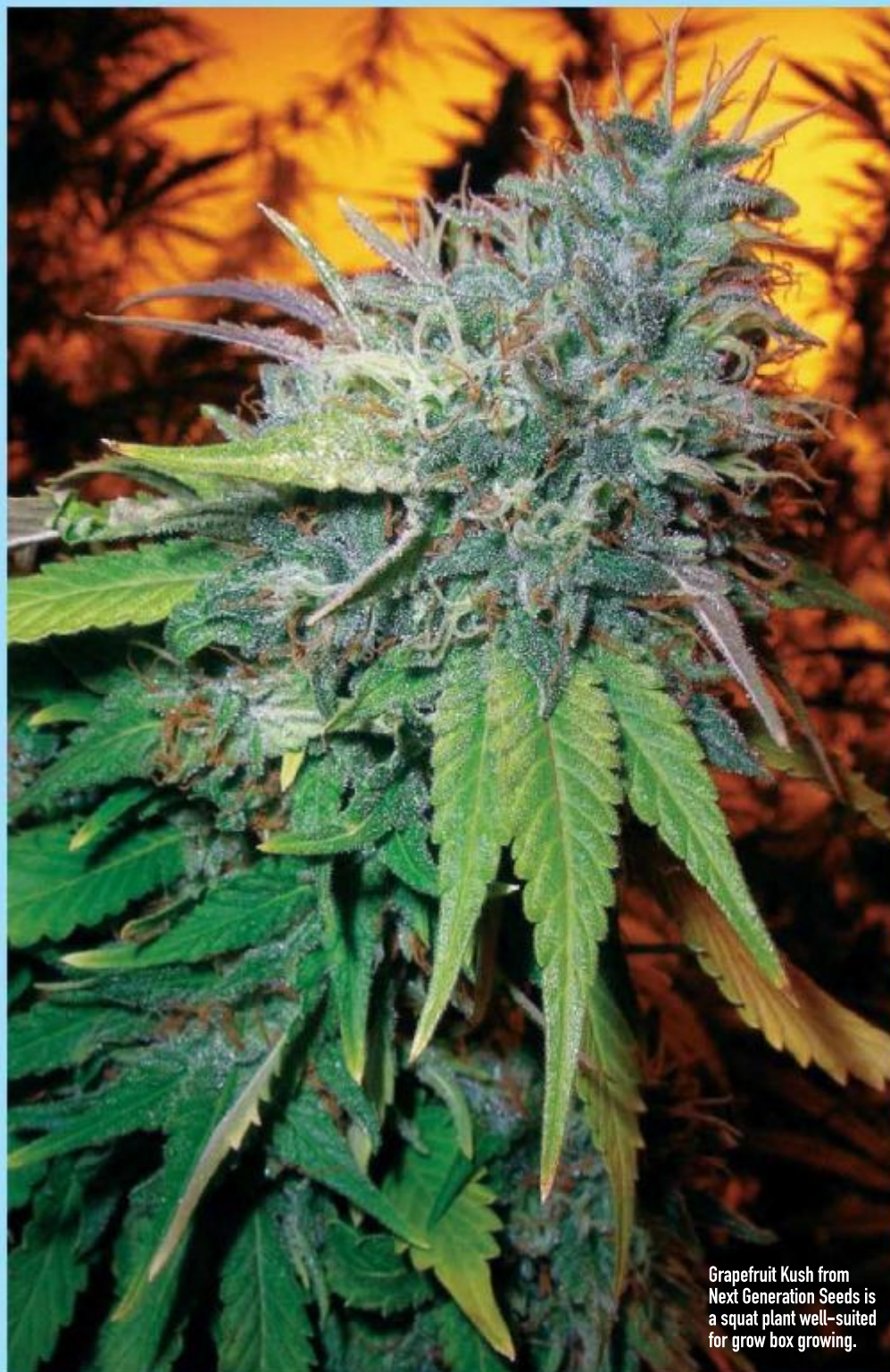
As you increase the number of cabinets in a single room to three or more, the challenge of maintaining proper temperatures intensifies. Cabinets feeding off of each other's exhaust can raise the room temperature enough to reduce yields. We found that directly ducting cool outside air from a window source into either chamber with insulated 4-inch ducting permitted us to weather heat waves over 80°F. Dual 6-inch centrifugal fans for the room's intake and

exhaust also helped resolve the problem.

Cigarette smokers might want to consider ducting the grow chamber; everybody else will want to directly cool the light chamber to better utilize their CO₂. If you decide to duct your boxes, you should use bidirectional filament tape to connect the insulated flexible ducting to the boxes. (It's one of the few tapes that will stay in place.) An added feature that comes with all of BCNL's units are the small carbon filters that attach to the outside of the exhaust ports. These are particularly helpful once the smell kicks in.



Two 4" fans help keep flowering chamber temps low.



Grapefruit Kush from Next Generation Seeds is a squat plant well-suited for grow box growing.

Strain Selection

Cabinet growing demands a strain that produces short, squat plants. It's always better to stay away from tall, long-flowering *sativa* strains in grow boxes; *indica* varieties usually do best. It will likely take most growers at least one or two tries to learn exactly when to switch their strain over from veg to flower and when to do maintenance. Some trials have shown that flowering cuttings once they have rooted works very well in smaller units.

Maintaining minimal variation in your day-to-night temperature swings can be helpful as well. Growers might also want to avoid trimming the underbrush until your plants have ceased growing vertically, or they may interpret it as a request to reach for the lights. Keep in mind that cabinets are ideal for the screen-of-green (SCRoG) technique. Using a screen or netting to weave your top colas horizontally across to form a bud canopy can result in excellent yields.

H₂O

Although reservoir changes can take a few hours with a multiple-cabinet system, once per week will do. The BloomBoxes come with 10-gallon reservoirs; Producer boxes have 14-gallon reservoirs. The drip emitters maintain moisture at the top of the plants' root zones, where the reservoir water doesn't reach. The emitters should be checked regularly in the beginning, since they can occasionally fail or become dislodged, which can stress the plant over the course of a few days.

Feeding occurs twice a day via the emitter system, which feeds the roots directly. The cabinets also tend to maintain high humidity without much effort—another very beneficial byproduct of the enclosed space. The cabinets regularly sit at 70% relative humidity, which is very good for seedlings and cuttings trying to root.

Security

The BCNL boxes are not so discreet that visitors won't wonder at them. The boxes bleed light and fan hum, so it's tough to have one in your bedroom if you're still living with your parents. However, there's no reason why your neighbors, friends or even landlord should have to know about it. Simply run one or more layers of thick curtain across one end of your room and call it a closet. Or build a loft over your cabinets, with your bed on top and a curtain across the bottom. Or you might even reframe your room with a fake wall. Whatever you do, position your cabinets on a wall with windows; this way, fresh air is readily available, and the light leaks aren't directly facing the windows. (Note: In multi-cabinet rooms, it is recommended that window boxes be built to properly secure the room and control the atmosphere.)

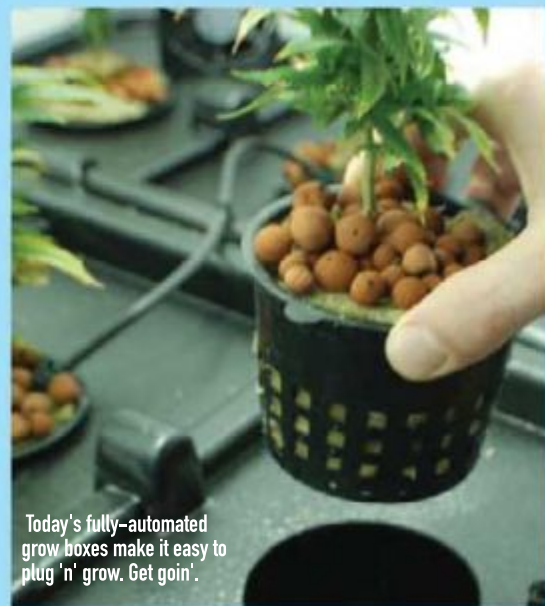
For some space situations, cabinets are a perfect fit. As awareness of their portability increases, we'll see more successful growers opt for them. Switching to a cabinet-based system offers clear-cut advantages for growers who wish to maintain extreme mobility: Entire rooms can be rolled out and into vehicles very quickly if necessary, thereby preventing the need to destroy valuable crops when security is breached. It's conceivable that crops could even be moved during a cycle if the reservoirs are drained for the brief time it takes to carry them to and from a truck.

Creating Box-Based Rooms

If a 2' x 4' loft is created within a room, a 10-foot ceiling would permit two levels of cabinets. This means that a large (20' x 20') bedroom can surprisingly accommodate upwards of 20 to 30 Producer boxes—each housing 18 plants and measuring 54" wide x 51" high x 28" deep. You do the math. (Hint: That's a lot of plants!)

Better yet, Producer cabinets on opposite light cycles can share the same circuit breaker, which permits growers to take more advantage of their available power and makes it that much easier to build a box-based growroom. Growers can even fill entire houses with these grow cabinets if a healthy household air conditioner is on hand to help control room temps.

Since each box consumes just nine amps, standard orange extension cords can be used. Given the simplicity of the grow technique employed in these boxes, scaling the system up should be fairly straightforward. For urban growers especially, box-based growing is an insurance policy well worth considering. ✨



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SPIRIT & SMOKE

If you cultivate cannabis as spiritual medicine, using it to offer up prayers, you are still subject to arrest and prosecution. But two Native American brothers whose crops were raided last summer passionately disagree—because the name of their tribe, Tuscarora, literally translates to “People of the Hemp.” Story & photos by Dan Skye

“The soldiers got your brothers.”


The women who lived next door gave Ross Johnson the news. They can be forgiven their assumption. The cops arrived heavily armed, a group task force of 20 federal and local law enforcement officers—dressed in either camouflage or black, supported by a Border Patrol helicopter. They blocked roads, crept through the woods and surrounded the property of Crandy and Tracy Johnson, all in an effort in to raid their garden, which consists of just 43 cannabis plants.

Ross rushed over to his brothers’ homes, which are next door to each other, but was turned away. Cops were hauling away plants and searching inside the houses, despite the fact that the warrant issued by the town judge specified a search of only the property’s exterior.

Crandy, a roadman (ceremonial leader) in the Native American Church, seethed as the cops moved into the room where he keeps his vast assortment of spiritual paraphernalia—feathers, hides, herbs, antlers and bones. Skins and buffalo heads hang on the wall, adorned with sprigs of sage and cannabis. The young cops in camo handled the artifacts roughly, calling out triumphantly as more buds were found.

“You should watch what you’re doing,” Crandy said sternly. “You’re not supposed to be touching this. I can’t be responsible for what happens to you.”





'We had our laws long before there was a Constitution.'

The young cops hesitated, unsure of the gruff, white-haired Indian. "I only touched this stuff. Is that okay?" asked one.

"This is a church," Crandy explained. "If you violate it, I can't tell you how the spirits will react."

Another offered nervously: "Hey, I didn't touch anything."

Crandy snapped back: "You're not supposed to be here! This is a violation of our inherent religious rights!"

The county sheriff then got in Crandy's face: "Just stand here and shut the fuck up! We don't give a fuck about your religious rights!"

That sentiment has been pretty clear for a few centuries now.

Three months after the raid, Crandy and Tracy sit at the kitchen table.

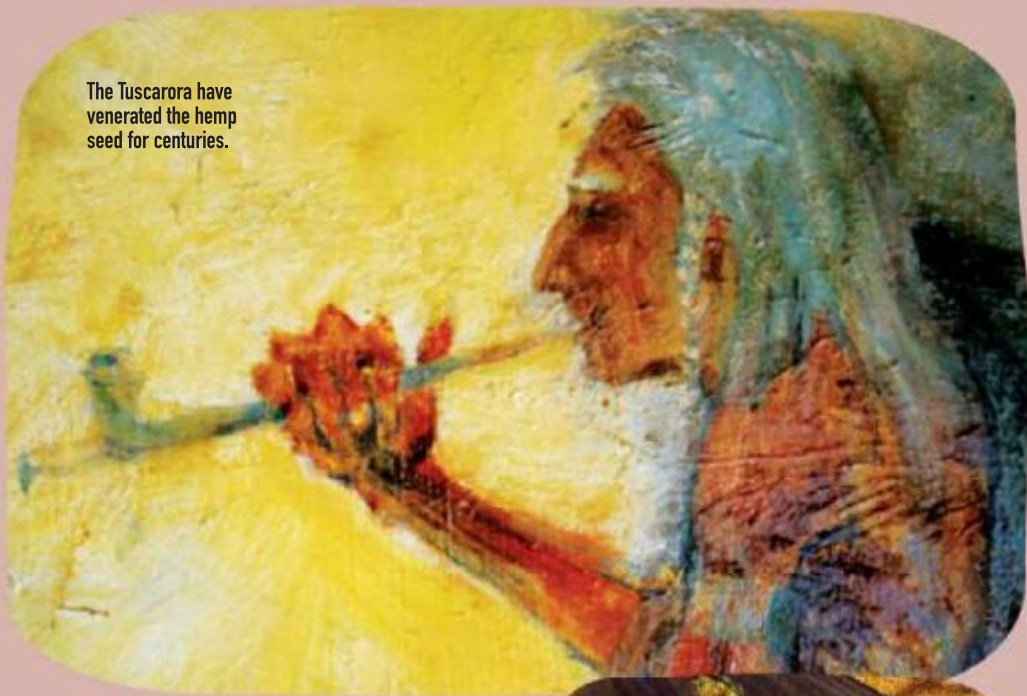
Crandy shakes his head. "The boat people—these citizens of the United States—came here to escape religious persecution," he says. "But when they got here from Europe, they started persecuting what they call our pagan religion!"

They've been here before. Fourteen years ago, the Johnson brothers experienced a similar raid for cultivating 240 plants (see "Tuscarora," April '97 HT). They were prepared to go the distance then to vindicate their right to use cannabis as spiritual medicine. However, the prosecutors got squeamish once the case garnered press coverage and agreed to drop the charges provided that the Johnson brothers obey all New York state laws for one year.

"They aren't my laws," scoffs Crandy. "We had our laws long before there was a Constitution."

The Tuscarora Indian Reservation, in Lewiston, NY, near Niagara Falls, comprises about two square miles. Fifty years ago, it was far larger, but the New York Power Authority seized 500 acres of Tuscarora land to construct the Niagara Power Project, despite the declaration of the nation's chiefs that their land wasn't for sale at any price. The Niagara Reservoir now covers the land where families once lived. In return, they got mobile homes and little else.

Hundreds of years earlier, the land of the Tuscarora was even larger. The Tuscarora nation is part of the famed Iroquois Confederacy established in 1570, a pact entered into by the Seneca, Cayuga, Onondaga, Oneida and Mohawk tribes to promote peace and mutual defense against intruders.



The Tuscarora have venerated the hemp seed for centuries.

‘We’re out of balance with nature, because of the white man’s laws that don’t allow us to use these herbs in the proper way.’



The Tuscarora were welcomed into the alliance in 1710, after fleeing their homeland in the region of present-day North Carolina. The English plantation system in the region of the Jamestown settlement had ravaged the East Coast tribes. Village territories were stolen and the people enslaved; women and children were often kidnapped and sold away. As part of the Iroquois Confederacy, the nation was able to re-establish itself. (Significant numbers of Tuscarora still live in North Carolina today, despite not having a reservation there.)

Seventy years later, the Tuscarora would fight on the side of George Washington during the American Revolution. In fact, because of their meritorious service, treaties of that era specified that “the United States would never disturb them, or any of the Six Nations in the free use of their land and enjoyment thereof.”

Clearly, that treaty has been violated many times. But what can never be disputed is the fact that the Tuscarora have been known as the “People of the Hemp” for centuries—long before the



invaders arrived. In fact, the name evolved from the Iroquoian word *skaru’re*n (“hemp gatherers”), bestowed because of the tribe’s gathering and use of Indian hemp for fiber. In Joseph Campbell’s authoritative volume *The Way of the Seeded Earth*, the Tuscarora are noted to have used hemp for “medicine” as well.

It is also noteworthy that when the confederacy’s constitution was read, councils were instructed to provide the reader with “a specially made mat woven of the fibers of hemp” on which to stand, never to be used again. Equally compelling are the laws themselves: They specifically honor the plant kingdom and the abilities with which it has been endowed—to take away the sickness of the human family and elevate human consciousness.

Archaeologists have long questioned whether Native Americans smoked cannabis, or whether the plant is even native to North America. But traditional Tuscarora have no such doubts. Their creation tale teaches that they were designated to be the caretakers of the hemp seed and keepers

of the peace pipe in which “hemp flower medicine” is smoked.

As children, Crandy and Tracy were told to stay out of the “special” gardens of their elders, and memories of adults smoking cannabis as part of their spiritual practice are among their earliest. They are both former “steelwalkers,” part of the Native American community of ironworkers renowned for their ability to work high above the earth building our country’s skyscrapers and bridges. Now in their sixties, the brothers continue to venerate the cannabis plant. What they cultivate is never sold; it is smoked in a spiritual way and burned in copious amounts in ceremonial fires.

“Our relationship with the hemp seed originates with the instructions we were given,” Crandy says. “We were told to honor the forces of nature—the four seasons, the four directions, the four elements—to give thanks for being part of this beautiful kingdom. And this is what the white man calls our pagan religion.”

Doug Anderson, the roads commissioner for the Tuscarora nation, is equally incensed and has protested the “illegal invasion” to the United Nations, where he also functions as ambassador for the tribe.

“We are a sovereign nation,” he says. “We have our laws and our way of life. Our government and our religion go hand in hand. Canada and the United States keep them separate, which allows them to persecute us.”

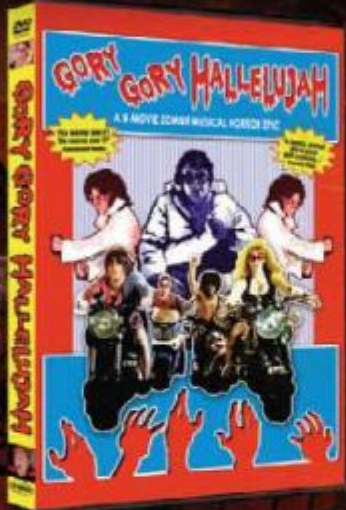
Even more to the point, the Tuscarora nation actually issues its own passports, which are accepted by member nations of the UN. Unfortunately, the Tuscarora leadership is fragmented: Of the 13 seats on the tribal council, only three are filled. Council meetings are sporadic, and communicating new developments to tribal members is sketchy. The nation numbers about 1,200 now; sadly, some of the ancient Tuscarora clans have vanished. Many of the people belong to Christian churches, and Crandy admits that only a few share the deep identity with the hemp seed that he and his brother do.

Adding to their frustration is the fact that, four months after the raid, the Johnson brothers still haven’t been charged with a crime, even though the authorities promised that charges would be filed within 30 days. Perhaps it’s due to their glaring violations of the warrant: The cops were instructed to search only the outside property, but they forced their way into the Johnsons’ homes, seizing hunting rifles and stashes of dried cannabis, their spiritual medicine.

Still, the raid has hardly deterred Crandy and Tracy from what they believe are sacred obligations. But these days, it’s tougher.

“We’ve been driven underground,” Crandy says. “Religious freedom laws are not respected or abided by, because they are written for and by white men. We’ve gotten to the point where we’re out of harmony,” he adds. “We’re out of balance with nature, because of the white man’s laws that don’t allow us to use these herbs in the proper way: to appease the understanding of the Guardians, to send this smoke skyward to the realms, to carry the message of the people, to keep the cycle moving onward.” ✨

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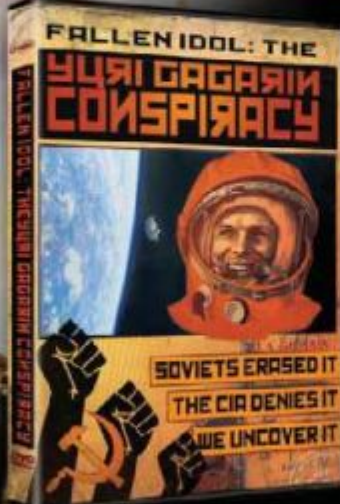


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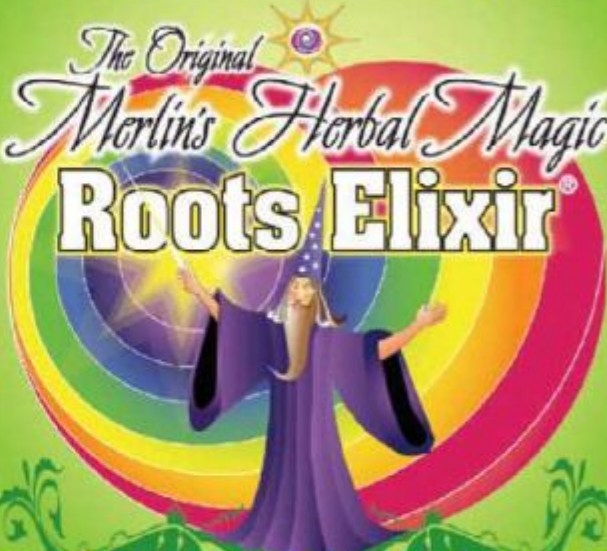
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GLASSES OF 2009

Now more than ever, it's time for the cannabis community to show its support for the visionary artists of the glass-pipe industry. Buy a pipe you can believe in, a pipe that speaks to you personally. Don't scrimp—the art world needs you! By E. Keet

Some folks simply aren't content to stare down the barrel of just any old glass pipe: These days, the true aficionado wants retina-piercing colors and unique designs that blend into a piece of *whoa!*-inducing smokeware. It's a tall order, and one that master glassblowers have spent the last several years answering—upping their game and perfecting their technique in order to create pipes that can't be mistaken for anything other than pure and exquisite works of art.

Now as never before, glass-pipe artists are producing pieces that pit form against function and explore new realms of the imagination. "Ten years ago, you'd be hard-pressed arguing the point that this is art and not a pipe," says Emmett Patterson, a.k.a. Ninja, the founder of *Tokecity.com* and *Glass Aficionado* magazine. "But today you can legitimately make that argument, because a lot of the high-end pipes really don't look like pipes. You've got to push the envelope in your mind just to grasp that it's a functional smoking device."

Prior to the arrival of the Internet, smoke-shop owners determined the market for glass pipes, which re-



NETWORK
Smoke flows freely through this futuristic, functional bubbler by Beale.

sulted in generally lackluster, uniform and mediocre products. Any pipe maker trying to make a living in the game quickly became resigned to playing by this thin, outdated rulebook. But once the online community came on the scene and started rumbling about the breakthrough designs of a new school of pipe makers, the revolution in glass art gained traction. Websites and online galleries like *Glasspipes.org* and *Tokecity.com* spread the news, documenting the vivid swirls and strange, shiny contours of this new breed of bubblers and tubes. And an audience of dazzled consumers—as well as a new generation of blowers—was quickly drawn in.

"Suddenly, the artists were getting paid by the actual people that were buying the pieces, who were able to start telling the artists what they wanted," Patterson explains. "They wanted the more elaborate pieces, and the artists found out that there are actually customers out there that regularly spend money on this type of glass."

As the online community expanded, so did the boundaries of glass-pipe art, moving the intricate results firmly into the realm of gallery-worthiness. For the artists themselves, the quickly evolving scene ushered in an opportunity to go far beyond the established conventions.



HONEY POT
Cowboy created this Sherlock hubble with faceted marble and black canes using the theme of bees and honey as inspiration.



GLASS OF 2009



UNTITLED 1
David Colton says he starts small, then tries to elaborate upon a general flow, usually ending when space runs out in the kiln, when he runs out of color, or when the piece cracks.

"The things that *weren't* being done started to reach my mind," says San Diego-based pipe maker Arty, a glassblower since 2002. "All these new techniques could be applied."

Arty's work, along with that of 30 other artists, is now featured in the new book *Smoked Volume 1*, a 160-page tribute to some of the most innovative pipe-making happening today (see sidebar).

Arty adds: "I had no idea it'd be a career and I'd still be doing it today and making good money and being looked at as an



UNTITLED

(top left)
Brandon Martin tried to "create the look of something ancient but with a modern feel—like an artifact from the future."

BOWLTON

(top right)
This fish is actually part of a sea monster created by Salt.

DISTANCE

(bottom)
Dashworld's work reflects his wild imagination and love of the outdoors.

artist—it's great! I really had no idea that me, myself, could do it—but I knew that the medium itself *would*."

The voracious online response isn't the only reason that glass smokeware has been catapulted to new heights. Artists sought out new and superior materials, such as high-heat-tolerant borosilicate glass, and found that they could manipulate the medium in seemingly infinite ways, creating bigger, badder structural pieces that appeared in no way related to the old-school pipe designs. At the same time, the for-

merly limited palette of glass colors was beginning to explode with many new tones.

"When I started about 13 years ago, 20 to 25 colors were available in the market," says Abe Fleishman, a glassblower and general manager of the colored-glass manufacturer Northstar Glassworks. "The colors were very dull, so it took a lot of energy from the artists at that time to make stuff look really poppin'. But as the techniques and the skill level advanced, the artists kept on looking for more things. One of the big breakthroughs for artists was, obvi-

ously, some of the opaque colors—the whites, the purples, the red-oranges and the yellows."

Today's glassblowers work with a palette of nearly 350 tints and tones, a Technicolor explosion of sorts that Fleishman says impels the artists to keep improving their techniques and skill, which in turn inform exactly how elaborate a piece is going to be. Also, given that the art of glassblowing is actually a "torch of dreams" path that many creative people have been drawn to, the rapid evolution of glass pipes seems to be following a feedback loop of sorts.

GLASS OF 2009



CHICKEN KEBAB

(above)
Joshua Opdenaker aka JOP skewered a chicken to smoke over an open fire.

WOODY HOT ROD DERBY #2

(left)
The culture that surrounds Rockabilly and Psycho-billy music inspired Zach Puchowitz to produce an American ZP Roadster "pipe."

SCORPION KING

(right)
Euchine created this mesmerizing 3-foot monstrosity for Wicked 66, makers of custom, high-end glass smokeware.

"It's a new and beautiful field," says Brian Jacobson, one of the publishers of *Smoked Volume 1*. "The color companies started to make more colors, which helped people expand their ideas and creativity. At the same time, the artists got better, which forced the toolmakers and other suppliers to create more and better products. It was really a back-and-forth: The artists pushed the creators of products to go above and beyond—who in turn allowed the artists to create new and groundbreaking work."

But if you still don't believe that these new visionaries of the glass-pipe industry have had to claw their way to legitimacy the hard way, consider the rows of mass-produced, uninspired, lollipop-shaped pieces that have lined the cases of smoke shops for decades: *That's* the competition. Expense is also an issue. Sure, you can buy a cheap glass pipe, but you should be aware that it's often an import—poorly designed, made from substandard materials and produced in sweatshop conditions. It's been a difficult point to get across to consumers looking to save cash for their stash instead of a pipe.

Also, consider Operation Pipe Dreams, a series of raids organized and conducted by the US Justice Department in 2004. Its mission was to snuff the torch of American glass-pipe makers, but the raids and convictions ultimately amounted to little more than a small public spanking of an arts subculture. Even so, the strong arm of the law successfully shook up the pipe-making community, as well as the stores that sold its merchandise.

Though they suddenly found themselves snubbed and demonized, this was the moment when the glass-pipe artists—left to their own creative devices—launched a quiet revolution, essentially doing to the industry just what they'd already learned to do to the medium of glass itself: heat it up and transform it in ways previously unimagined. Given the results, it's little wonder that this group of artists often feels that it has been relegated to the ghetto of the art world. At the same time, however, being a part of a recognized community has generated newfound respect, as well as increasingly lucrative returns. It's all been a long time coming.

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Banjo crafted this classic for the Telluride Bluegrass Festival. It features a fiddle, mandolin, guitar, banjo and standup bass.



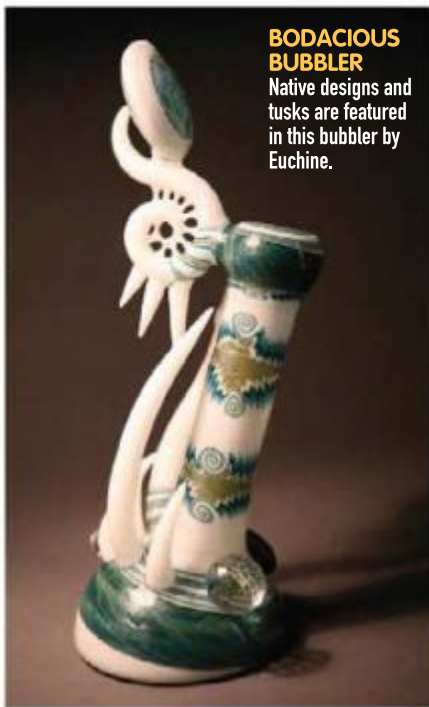
PINK LADIES

Kaos Glass produces a line of smokeware with the female stoner in mind.



BODACIOUS BUBBLER

Native designs and tusks are featured in this bubbler by Euchine.



Smoked Volume 1

CHRONICLING THE FINE ART OF GETTING HIGH

If you always thought that the only pipe you'd ever see on your coffee table was your own, check out *Smoked Volume 1* (GritCityInc.) a full-color paperback introduction to the works of over 30 of the sickest glass-pipe makers in the country. It's a collection of photos that will quash any doubts about whether these smokeware artists belong at the head of the class in the new school of glassblowing. *Smoked*—the brainchild of designer Brian Jacobson and glassblower Nate Purcell (a.k.a. Just Another Glassblower)—features 150 photographs from top Philly lensman M. Scott Whitson, capturing the intimate details of pieces that look nothing like the pipes of yore.

"One day, we will look back at this time as the beginning of something bigger," says *Smoked* contributing artist Slinger. "And this book is one of the documents that will be used to inform people about the history of this movement."—EK

Available at gritcity.com, \$24.99

"I never felt like blowing glass pipes was doing anything wrong or damaging to society," says Philadelphia-based blower extraordinaire JOP, also featured in *Smoked*. "I knew it was only a matter of time before pipes got to where they are now. Glass pipes have come a long way due to the pipers out there, but it's up to society and the mainstream to take it to the next level."

Art collectors have already begun to snap up what will one day be the essential artifacts of this creative insurgency. And though that's welcome news, blowers and paraphernalia-art fans still recognize that their climb to respectability and acceptance is still in its early stages. "A lot of these artists right now are just so ahead of their time," Fleishman says. "I personally believe that the art of pipe makers is almost so advanced that the standard art gallery doesn't fully understand or isn't educated enough to accept it in this form yet. This stuff is mind-blowing." His recommendation for skeptics? "Take the mindset out," he replies: "Don't think about it as 'paraphernalia' or as 'a pipe.' Look at it as art."

These days, what the smokeware industry really needs—much like the cannabis community itself—is a greater level of popular acceptance. When you buy a glass pipe, are you aware of its currently "illicit" nature and the serious constraints that some glass artist has faced to create it? Would you choose to buy an illegally imported product over a high-quality, American-made one? And are you willing to acknowledge the artistry that was required to produce this elegant, efficient piece of smokeware that we in the cannabis community depend upon and deserve?

Spend some time smoking on *that*. ✨



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A unique system called the "teepee technique" keeps bud-laden branches from falling over.

Take a rare look behind the curtain at a master grower's garden of dank delights. Our cannabis correspondent follows the green brick road to learn about new strains and exciting techniques for growing pot that'll send you over the rainbow. Story & photos by Freebie

THE WIZARD OF BUZZ

IF I ONLY HAD A BUD

As a teenager growing up in New York, the only herb I ever saw was dirtweed or Mexican schwag—brown, flattened, unappealing bud loaded with seeds. Then a friend invited me to a party that his older brother was throwing. That evening, a guy named Weird Al (not the accordionist) showed up with a large brown paper bag. Inside was a foot-long cola he'd just harvested from an outdoor plant.

Whoa! So *that's* what it was supposed to look like. Unfortunately, the bud was fresh and wet and by no means ready to smoke. However, I clearly remember feeling enlightened after seeing the real deal. The following day, I went out to find this magazine that Weird Al had been talking about—a publication by the name of HIGH TIMES.

Months passed, and I became an avid reader of the magazine. Now I could finally see for myself what great buds were supposed to look like. I read the stories about how to grow and, a few months later, even began the first of many attempts to sprout some seeds myself. But after years of mixed results, I eventually gave up. When it came to growing the kind of buds I saw in HIGH TIMES, I was in way over my head, and I decided it just wasn't worth the continued trouble and expense.

Then, 20 years later, I happened to find myself living in California. For decades, I'd heard and read about the legendary master growers in the northern part of the state. Unfortunately, when I got there, these masters turned out to be, for the most part, invisible. Most were old-school growers with friends and connections that the average guy would simply never have. I'd hear tales of strains that no one had except one or two growers—and they weren't sharing with anyone. Just laying your eyes on one of these strains was rare, if not downright impossible. And the harvests raised by these legendary growers were, for the most part, consumed in small circles, almost never leaving the area where they were grown.



Grape Ape colas form into tasty buds.



But things have changed in California since then. These days, the medical clubs carry all kinds of great strains, and the state's growers supply these clubs with everything they can harvest—good medicine and bad, top shelf and bottom tier. And it appears that most of the marijuana continues to come from Northern California.

This has led to some unexpected results. While the older growers still lead their mostly invisible lifestyles, the younger ones seeking to come up in the world have flooded the market with expensive but mid-dling marijuana. The prices in the clubs are higher than ever—in most clubs, the price is 10 to 20 percent higher than at street level. But despite this fact, California's consumers have found themselves with little choice but to patronize these clubs or grow their own. After all, the old-timers are still using their old connections to disperse their harvest, and the younger growers are dumping everything they can on an overpriced medical market, so what other choice do we have? The only logical thing for me to do was either to get a better connection or start growing again.

OFF TO SEE THE WIZARD

Luckily for me, one day not so long ago, I got a call from a friend who got a call from a friend who happens to be a master grower, and who wanted someone to document a new soil-growing process that he'd mastered. When my friend told me who the master grower was, I couldn't believe that this cannabis legend was willing to open up his world to me. But that's exactly what happened.

I'd been reading about this invisible grower for years: He'd been a fundamental force in improving both genetics and growing techniques over the last two decades. When I heard that I'd be able to take a trip up north and meet him, I felt like I was about to embark on a magic journey. After I'd asked a friend to come along and okayed it with the grower, I packed up my gear, and then we were off to see the Wizard.

A four-hour drive on California's green brick road would no doubt take us past countless grow houses, and we whiled away the journey by imagining how many of the homes we drove past were actually in



the business of cultivating weed. One in 10? One in 100? Who can say? But the time passed quickly, and before we knew it, we were already there. The house we were visiting was modern and large, with beautiful views of the rolling hills. And after we'd introduced ourselves to the Wizard, he proceeded to give us a tour of his Emerald City.

The garden itself was located underneath the house. In a basement accessed by a hatch door was a large room filled with about 30 extremely large plants just hours from harvest. Grape Ape colas filled the air with a pungent bouquet.

Before we really got down to business, talking about his techniques and process, we wanted to sample some of the Wizard's wares. We went back upstairs, and the Wizard proceeded to pack bong after bong with several different strains. Some of them we'd seen before; others we'd never even heard of. The Grape Ape came first, followed by the Blue Dream and the Strawberry Cough—or was that the Blackberry Kush? I don't really remember now, but in any case, the flavors were all outstanding.

I wanted to know more about the Wizard's life story. Born on the East Coast but destined for California, this master grower has single-handedly changed the lives of countless individuals by enlightening and educating growers for over 20 years. Whether they know it or not, the Wizard has always been looming in the background, continually polishing his skills and refining the indoor-growing culture to what it is today—and beyond.

Once he'd mastered hydroponics, the Wizard told me, he made the conscious choice to return to soil and organics, and ended up achieving the greatest results he'd ever seen. We had a long conversation about hydro versus dirt—agreeing that hydro gardens grow faster, but disagreeing about final bud size. But when it comes to buds raised in soil, said the Wizard, one thing always stands out in the end: the taste.

Then we returned to his garden for a second look, and it became clear that he's way beyond anything a hydro farmer could ever hope to achieve.



Air-cooled 1000-watt lights grow buds to their full potential.

THE GARDEN BEHIND THE CURTAIN

This particular grow was 100 percent Grape Ape. The Wizard starts each 15-gallon grow bucket with a 50/50 mix of two kinds of soil: a Premier Pro-Mix with 15 percent perlite and a Premier Pro-Mix with 30 percent perlite. (By mixing the different perlite percentages, the Wizard finds that he's able to achieve the proper soil density, with much better root growth and drainage than using just one or the other.) To this soil mix, he then adds two cups of dolomitic lime for every three bales of soil (i.e., two cups for every 12 cubic feet).

Once the mixture is complete and his 15-gallon buckets are filled and ready for transplants, he places each one onto a rolling dolly, which makes moving the plant containers as easy as can be. (A concrete floor also helps.) By moving the plants around to optimize the light reaching each one, the Wizard can achieve a sea-of-green garden on an enormous scale.

His techniques for feeding the plants have also evolved over the years. In order to simplify and refine the process, he's settled on the Canna Bio line of foods, which has both Vega and Flora formulas. Both are one-part systems only, which takes care of the basic food regimen. Normally, the Wizard would use a high-end pH meter from Spectrum Electronics to test for the proper pH, but with this new line of Canna fertilizers, he's found that he no longer needs to adjust the pH. Better yet, the fertilizers contain no animal products, which typically leave behind undesirable chemicals. Canna uses fermented molasses (or "vinasses") in its fertilizers, so they're able to achieve consistent nutrient levels while maintaining the proper pH. Not only does this prevent any unwanted chemical residue, but it allows the plants to absorb every bit of food they need throughout the entire recommended pH scale.

The Wizard starts his plants out with this fertilizer program which he then supplements with foliar feeding. He makes his own special teas for foliar feeding, beginning with a 5-gallon bucket filled with non-chlorinated water. (Using non-chlorinated water is important, since chlorine will kill the beneficial bacteria he's trying to produce. If non-chlorinated water isn't available, you can use tap water, but allow it to sit uncovered for 48 hours first: When the water is left exposed to the air, the chlorine reverts to a gas, so after a few days it will be gone.)

Picking up each plant by hand every day to check the soil is really the only way to tell the ideal time for watering.

The Wizard then adds two ounces of Humboldt Nutrients' Mayan Mycorzime for every gallon of water. Next he adds two ounces of unrefined sugar to the mix. Finally, he sticks an aquarium bubbler into it and brews the mix for three to five days. This tea produces millions of beneficial endo- and ectomycorrhizae. Once it's fully brewed, he adds one gallon of tea for every 30 gallons of water in the reservoirs, which he then uses to hand-water the plants. He uses this tea consistently throughout the first few weeks of flowering, along with a soluble microbial inoculant, to build a strong colony of beneficial microbes in the root zone. And he uses the undiluted full-strength tea to foliar-feed the plants once a week during the same period to build an increased resistance to pathogens in the leaf canopy.

To water the plants, the Wizard uses a pond pump and a hose with a standard metal wand. As you might predict, he has a hands-on approach when it comes to watering. Some growers use meters to tell them when their plants are thirsty, but a master grower already knows in his bones that the best time to water the plants is only when they need it. First, the Wizard pokes a finger into the top of the soil. If it's dry, he then pokes a finger into the holes at the bottom of each plant's bucket. If the soil there is dry as well, he'll actually lift each bucket up to get a sense of the water weight. The Wizard will only water a plant when it's almost dry, so if the soil is still wet or moist (or even slightly damp), the plant won't get watered.

Expert growers call this "cycling." You never want to over-water (or under-water) your plants, since too much water leads to rot and other issues, and not enough water leads, obviously enough, to stress and even death. For the Wizard, picking up each plant by hand every day to check the soil is really the only way to tell the ideal time for watering. Then, when the plants are ready, the Wizard saturates each one.

He also uses Thrive Alive (from Technaflora) as an organic B-vitamin supplement, along with Barricade (from Advanced Nutrients) during the vegetative cycle through mid-flowering to further enhance plant vigor.

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A Grape Ape close-up reveals trichomes throughout.



(above) The garden behind the curtain.

(right) Beneficial additives enhance plant immunity systems.



(below) Light movers add to the available growing space.



After experimenting with many different techniques for trellising, the Wizard came up with what he calls his “teepee technique” to keep the bud-loaded branches from falling over. Three bamboo stakes are inserted into the buckets, then brought together at the top like a teepee and wrapped with duct tape. Then he simply ties each branch to the teepee with garden tape. The branches are secure, yet the individual plants are still fully mobile.

As far as lighting goes, the Wizard does all his vegging under Hortilux Blue metal halide (MH) lights, which have bulbs designed to mimic natural daylight. The digital ballasts make it easy to switch over to some Hortilux high-pressure sodium (HPS) lights during the flowering stage. All of the 1,000-watt lights are suspended over the garden and attached to a custom-made light-moving rail system that ensures zero shadow areas and better overall coverage.

At the onset of flowering, the Wizard changes the lights over to the full-spectrum HPS bulbs. Approximately three weeks into flowering, or just after “bud set,” he resets the light timers from a 12/12-hour photoperiod to 13 hours on and 11 off. This technique puts the plants into overdrive: Just as the buds are starting to line up, the added light spurs the plants to work longer and harder. (Expect an increase in water and nutrient uptake.) After a certain period, the light schedule eventually reverts to 12/12. In general, three to four weeks before maturity is the best time to change the lighting schedule back—though typically, with plants that mature after eight weeks, the Wizard returns to the 12/12-hour photoperiod by the end of week five to allow the flowers to fully develop. Then, right before harvest, he likes to leave his plants in the dark for 72 hours. According to the Wizard, the stress induced by the absence of light causes the precious flowers to darken their color and deepens the flavor of the buds.

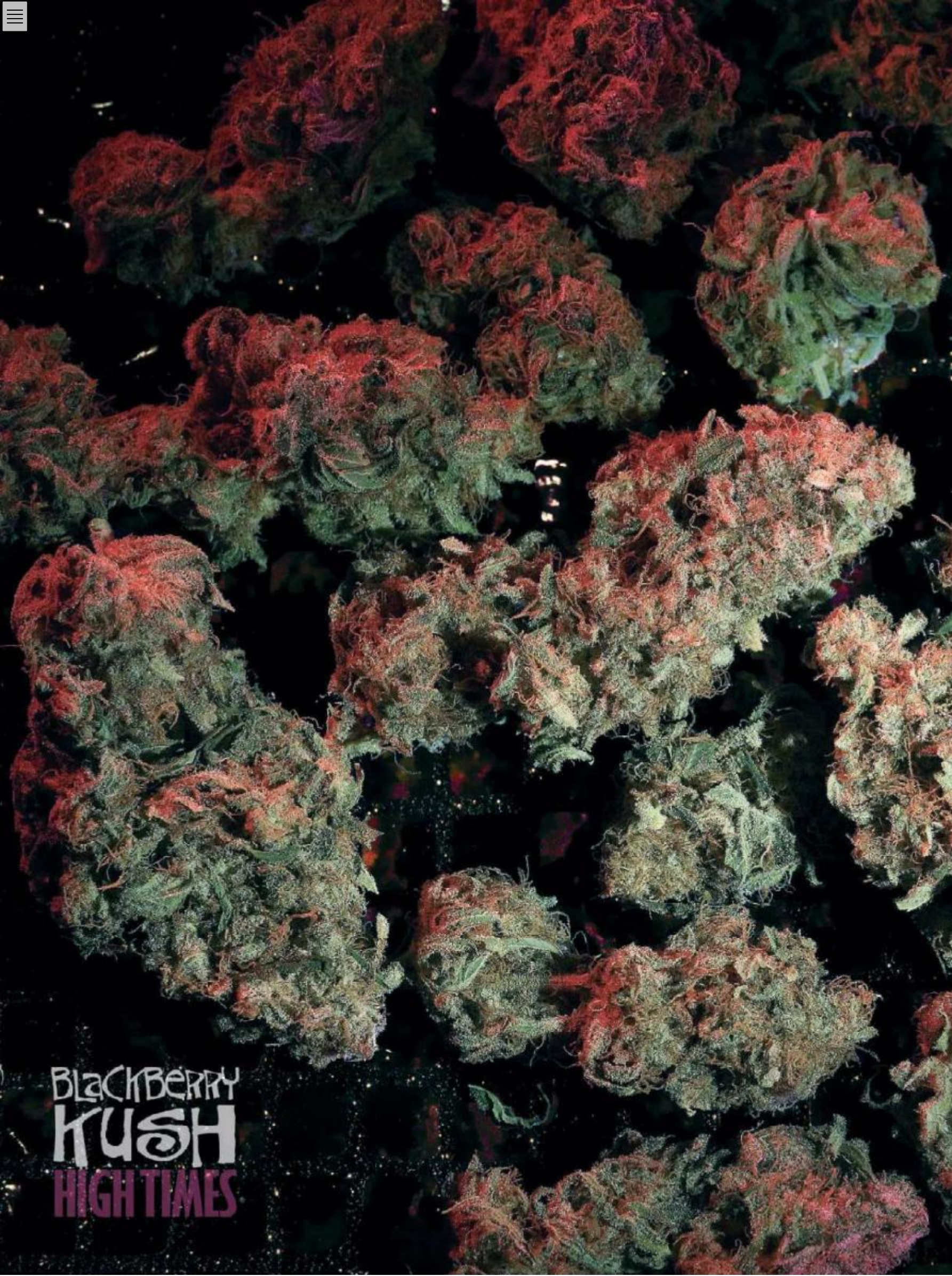
The Wizard incorporates carbon dioxide (CO₂) into his system, both for vegetative growth and the major development portion of the flowering cycle. He uses an air-cooled, propane-powered gas burner to enrich the air with CO₂. A plug-and-grow environmental controller lets him increase the CO₂ levels at intervals: He uses 1,600 ppm (parts per million) as the lowest set point, then increases the level by 100 ppm per week until a peak level of 2,200 ppm is reached. This level is maintained while the flowers are increasing in size. Humidity and temperature are controlled via air conditioners and dehumidifiers. He also maintains plenty of air circulation throughout the room via oscillating fans.

It was a lot to take in, and after a long day of driving, smoking and learning from this legendary grower, we were finally ready to go home. The Wizard showed us some things we’d never encountered before—simple but very effective techniques encompassing everything from beneficial bacteria to the lighting system and timers. The knowledge he’d acquired from his decades of experience left us feeling exhausted and overwhelmed. Before leaving, we had an amazing dinner and smoked tough for dessert. We left with three new strains to take home, as well as notebooks of information and photos. Thinking back over the past 20 years, I’ve seen many great gardens, and I’ve had the pleasure of meeting many expert growers. Out of all those growers, however, the Wizard was the one that struck me as having the purest, most disinterested passion. He grows not for money or fame, but simply for love of the plant itself. ✨



Grape
ape





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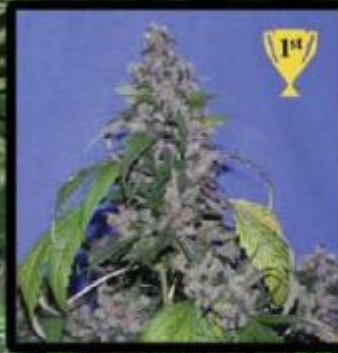
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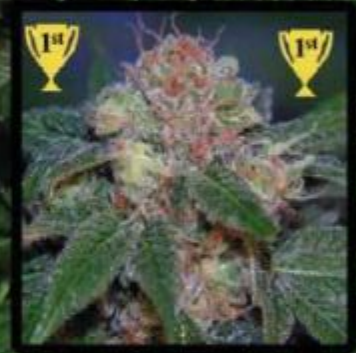
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Liberty and VISC photos by Kat in Skunk issues v3#5 & v3#8

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**The true story
of how the world's
most famous pothead
got high with Arnold
Schwarzenegger
in the late '60s.**

**Story by
Tommy Chong**

**Illustrations by
Louisa Bertman**



I Smoked Pot With

I met Arnold Schwarzenegger at Gold's Gym in 1968, when he first arrived from Europe. He was 21 years old and could barely speak English. He was the talk of the bodybuilding world and had already won his first Mr. Universe title, in the 1967 competition sponsored by NABBA (the National Amateur Body Builders Association)—a contest he would dominate for the next three years.

Steroids and Arnold arrived at the same time, and Arnold took big muscles to new heights. But as big as Arnold was (20-inch arms!), he still managed to lose the Mr. Universe contest sponsored that year by a rival group, the International Federation of Body Builders, to an American named Frank Zane. According to the gossip at Gold's Gym, Zane was a master in the use of steroids, and it was this skill that propelled him past



The Governator!

Arnold for the IFBB title in '68. But Arnold was a fearsome competitor—as anyone who saw him at the gym could tell you—and the following year he went on to take *both* Mr. Universe titles.

At the time, Gold's Gym was really the best men's club in the world. Eventually, as more and more people flocked to the tiny gym, the success actually turned Joe Gold off. He really just wanted a place where he and

his bodybuilding friends could have a good workout without being bothered. He had started the gym in his garage, and his experience as a welder/machinist came in handy building the early dumbbell and barbell sets, along with the benches for presses.

Then the garage became too cramped, so Joe found a storefront in Venice and opened up the first Gold's Gym. The building is still standing

'Zabo had a hookah with one pipe stem that he used whenever he had guests over for a toke.'



with the original sign, although it's now a residence. This was the gym where all the greats gathered. And this was where Zabo (a.k.a. "the Chief") lived for a few months, sleeping on the sit-up board.

Zabo was the manager and co-creator of Gold's Gym, and he was already known throughout the bodybuilding world as "Mr. Natural," a living legend due to his incredible body and devotion to the sport. And although Zabo never took steroids, he was very much into marijuana. A dedicated pot smoker, the Chief had a clear mission in life: to work out, get high, lay in the sun and "service" the ladies.

When I arrived in Venice Beach in 1968, I had the same goals, except that I'd added "writing songs" to the list. I became friends with Zabo as soon as I joined, because he could never remember if I'd paid my membership dues, which were a total of 30 bucks for three months. Whenever I appeared at the gym, Zabo would eventually come up and ask, "Are you a member here?"

To which I would reply: "Yeah."

Then he'd look at me for a second and go: "Oh, yeah—Tommy, right?"

Back in those days, the mantra given to each new customer was "\$30 for three months, no instruction, and put the weights back where you found them." And that was it! "No instruction"

meant Zabo wasn't about to baby anyone in the gym. If you did an exercise wrong, or if you did an exercise that was bad for you, such as side bends with a dumbbell—that was too bad. Giving instruction in those days was a waste of time, because only dedicated bodybuilders used the gym, and those guys didn't need it. Most of them already knew what they were doing, having read the available literature and learned the routines used by champions.

But Zabo took a liking to me and would, on occasion, correct what I was doing, because he realized I was one of the few guys there who would actually listen when told what to do. This put me into Zabo's inner circle, which included all the top guys at the time, like Dave Draper, Frank Zane and, of course, Arnold. Zabo eventually moved into a little cottage within walking distance of the gym. It was at this house that some of the biggest men in the sport gathered to smoke the herb.

Zabo had a hookah with one pipe stem that he used whenever he had guests over for a toke. He would load the bowl with a big pinch of bud (a quarter of an ounce) and then fire it up, taking a huge bodybuilder's toke. The trick was to eventually pull so hard that the burning pot would be sucked down and explode in the water. That

meant taking an enormous hit, which would be held in those healthy, oversized lungs for a long time without coughing.

The pot was usually old-fashioned Mexican weed with seeds. (This was before the seedless variety.) But one strain—probably Colombian—was potent enough to put you to bed. My recollection is that the nasty stems-and-seeds weed was available for \$20 to \$50 a kilo at the time, but I'm not real sure about prices, because I never bought weed in those days. I smoked whatever was handed to me, and enough was handed to me that I was continually smiling at the world.

Arnold loved the competition at Zabo's, so he would try to outdo Dave Draper, who, after taking an even bigger toke, would hold in the smoke even longer. When the pipe was handed to me, I knew I couldn't even come close to these guys, so I politely took the tiniest toke, then proceeded to cough my lungs out, to the merriment of my fellow tokers.

I wasn't embarrassed in the least, because I was happy just to be included in this once-in-a-lifetime moment. Working out in the same gym



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I Smoked Pot With the Governor!

with these guys was a thrill, so sharing a bong with them was a dream come true. And the fact that I was a nobody back then also shows the humanity and love these special men possessed. I was the only guy in the room that hadn't made his mark on the bodybuilding scene. Most of them had won at least one major contest in their young lives; meanwhile, I was a skinny little gym rat who did his workout at the lighter end of the weight rack, trying not to get in anybody's way, especially when the giants did their supersets.

An example of a superset was for these guys to start at one end of the weight rack and do as many reps (repetitions) as possible with the lightest pair of dumbbells, then move on to the

On one occasion, Zabo invited me for a "little run." I accepted the invitation—which was a mistake, since that "little run" turned out to be a fucking marathon. He said, "We'll just go around the block a couple of times," and added that the reason he was running was that he was feeling sick and couldn't work out.

I found out later that Zabo had been a scout during the Second World War and had contacted malaria in the jungles during the 12 months he was behind enemy lines. The virus was in his blood, and he would have attacks on occasion and couldn't lift weights, so he would run "a few miles" instead. But Zabo ran like he worked out—fast and insane.

The trick was to eventually pull so hard that the burning pot would be sucked down and explode in the water.



next heavier pair, until they were curling 190 pounds in either hand. This was done nonstop; the pain was so intense that the screams coming out of their mouths were animalistic. The misconception that somehow bodybuilding is not a sport, and that all these supermen had to do was inject steroids into their bodies to magically become big and muscular, amazes me to this day.

I was there: I saw their workouts with my own eyes. These amazing men also had as much knowledge of the body—and probably more knowledge of nutrition—than most doctors. And yet they took time out of their hectic workout schedule to smoke pot. I think that says it all when it comes to the propaganda and lies that the US government has been spreading for years about the health risks of marijuana.

Zabo also cleaned the gym at night before closing shop. I worked out late, so I would help him put the weights away. He'd always vacuum the place by hand and never used an extension; instead, he would stoop down low to pick up the dirt. When I suggested that an extension would make the job easier, Zabo replied, "Come on, we come here for a workout. A little bending won't hurt—and besides, I lost the extension months ago."

He took off like a shot, with me running as fast as I could to keep up with him, but soon he was a speck on the horizon, so I said fuck it and slowed down to my customary crawl. I hobbled back to the gym and waited for Zabo, but he was gone like a cool breeze, so I did my little workout and hung around. I wanted to see how long Zabo's "little run" would take. I finally gave up after two hours.

Zabo worked on *Things Are Tough All Over*, the Cheech & Chong movie where Cheech and I played funny Arabs. Zabo was my double, so he did a lot of work in the film. We shot Zabo's part in Las Vegas.

One day, when we were shooting some desert stuff that didn't require Zabo's presence, he joined us for lunch anyway: He ran 25 miles out to the location, had lunch, then ran 25 miles back to Vegas, where he probably did a workout with weights before he ended his day.

Zabo had won so many trophies during his long career that one day Steve, his friend and landlord, came home and found them out on the sidewalk, stacked in boxes alongside the garbage. "What's going on here?" Steve asked. Zabo replied, "I don't need that shit."

Steve—who, like the rest of us, was a big Zabo fan—decided to rescue some of the more important trophies. One reason that Zabo had so many: When bodybuilding contests first began in the 1930s (BS—Before Steroids), the judges would award a different trophy for every part of the body, such as best arms, best legs, best back, etc. This was because different men were well developed in different areas, and the overall trophy was given to the all-around best-proportioned man.

Zabo had injured his shoulder in a diving accident, so he lacked shoulder size, but he had everything else and then some. He maintained an extremely healthy diet, but he also enjoyed life to the fullest—and when it came to his legendary body, the size extended to all the important parts. In fact, one of the reasons some of us thought Zabo never used steroids was the rumor that it decreased penis size. This was one body part that, if it had its own category, Zabo would've won in a heartbeat, without having to expose the entire monster.

Zabo is 83 years old now, and he still has regular customers visiting him (including many gorgeous women). I could write a book on the legend of Zabo's monster, but this is an article about getting high with the Governor, so maybe next time.

I recently ran into Arnold at the Starbucks in Brentwood where he has breakfast, and he recognized me immediately. He smiled as if remembering those carefree times and said, "We both had dreams, didn't we?" I smiled back and thought to myself: "Yeah, we both did." I dreamed about becoming a successful writer, and Arnold about becoming a famous movie star. We both fulfilled our wildest dreams. We both started with nothing and became insanely successful.

The question is: How much of a role did pot play in our success? It played an enormous part in *my* success, obviously, because I went on to make movies like *Up In Smoke* and *Nice Dreams*. But although Arnold smoked a joint in *Pumping Iron*, his success has not been pot-related—or has it? After all, when the Beatles landed in New York for their first American tour, Bob Dylan turned them on to pot—and we all know what *that* started.

When Arnold landed in America, Zabo turned him on to pot, and now Arnold is the governor of California—after an enormously successful career in bodybuilding *and* Hollywood. So is there something about pot that changes people? Does it tap into some unseen spiritual side, helping to connect us with the *real* world where everything and anything is possible? I'm convinced that it does. I personally feel connected to the spiritual world whenever I smoke pot—but maybe that's because I'm already aware of the spiritual world. Whatever!

In the end, what I do know for certain is that I smoked with the Governor, and he remembered ... and that was so sweet! 🌿

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Travel guru and marijuana activist Rick Steves at the 2008 Seattle Hempfest.



A CONVERSATION WITH RICK STEVES

INTERVIEW BY BOBBY BLACK

For the past 30 years, celebrated travel author and television host Rick Steves has shown Americans how to travel smart through his numerous guidebooks, website and PBS series "Rick Steves' Europe." But beyond that, Steves has become one of the nation's most outspoken celebrity advocates for marijuana legalization. He serves on the advisory board of NORML, and recently partnered with the American Civil Liberties Union to host a half-hour educational program titled "Marijuana: It's Time For a Conversation"—a rational discussion about marijuana prohibition which networks have refused to air. HIGH TIMES caught up with this adventurer-turned-activist in his home state of Washington, after his speech at the 2008 Seattle Hempfest to get his view on the state of the drug war in America.

HT: When did you first start speaking out on behalf of marijuana legalization?

RS: Even back in the 1980s when it was more risky to "come out" I was the anonymous voice of the responsible adult user on radio shows in Seattle. When NORML noticed I was a member and asked me to be on their board (I believe in around 2002) I began my public speaking on drug policy promoting the notion that there is an option other than "soft on drugs" or "hard on drugs"... and it's "smart on drugs."

Was there any specific incident that sparked your desire to get involved? Some epiphany? I have friends and relatives for whom I have great respect who had to lie to their families and employers about their innocent enjoy-

ment of pot. I have teacher friends who had to parrot what they believed was government-sponsored lies about drug use and abuse when they would have rather had credibility with their students to help them understand the real dangers of drug abuse. I have profited by clever ideas contributing to my writing and the way I run my business that would have never come to me otherwise. And I saw how there's really nothing evil about the weed as it is responsibly enjoyed overseas. Plus, once I heard instruments in a Beatles song I never knew were there. How can that be a bad thing?

Has your advocacy of legalization caused you to come under any scrutiny or affected your professional life?

Not that I know of. I just get a thumbs up from people who otherwise probably wouldn't know what I do.

How did you first become involved with the Seattle Hempfest?

I realized there was a huge party going on that the main stream would not announce. I wanted to check it out and found a cross section of our society that I didn't appreciate until then. When I became active in the drug policy debate I met organizers of Hemp Fest who asked me if I would talk and I said sure.

How many Hempfests have you been to?

I think I've been to four. This is my travel time, so I'm usually in Europe researching but I like to try to come home for this. It's just such a great celebration of freedom here in Seattle.

What do you think it is about Seattle that allows it to host an event like this without any law enforcement problems?

It's where the land hits the sea... I think there's something good about that. It's the gateway to the Orient; it's got a lot of exposure to the rest of the world. And we have a pretty cool electorate compared to a lot of the country.

You were a featured speaker here...what was the main message you tried to get out?

My main message is that the responsible, recreational adult use of marijuana is a civil liberty. I'm not saying marijuana is good, I'm not saying smoke pot—I'm saying fundamentally it is a civil right to be able to drink some alcohol, or enjoy a little marijuana, and be responsible for what you do. If you do something that is harmful to society they should throw the book at you. But I think it's futile for a society to try to legislate morality.

What I do is I bring a European perspective on this whole discussion on the criminalization of marijuana. We have to acknowledge that we do have a drug problem in the United States. There are people who abuse drugs, and that's a problem that every society has. Europe deals with the drug problem by taking the crime out of it and thinking of it as a health problem rather than a criminal problem, and I think that's something that we can learn from. I think the measure of a society's effectiveness in drug policy should not be how many people we lock up, but how do we reduce harm to our society. I think Europe does a better job of dealing with its drug problems that the U.S. does, and we can learn from it.

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Steves addresses the crowd at the 2007 NORML conference in Los Angeles.

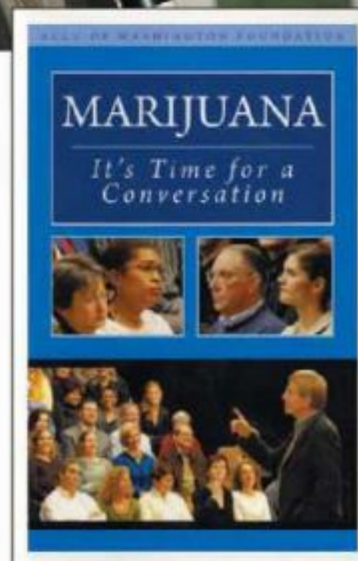
"This war on marijuana is an expensive fiasco."

There are 80,000 people in jail today—in our country—for smoking pot. That would be laughable in Europe, but its not laughable cause they're real people, doing hard time, for something as innocuous as enjoying a little marijuana. I think we can do much better than that.

This war on marijuana is an expensive fiasco, it's a waste of money, and we can do a much better job of addressing serious drug problems in our society if we can take the crime out of it and think of it as a health problem.

What other pot-related rallies or events have you participated in? As a board member of NORML I regularly attend their events and conventions. And when the ACLU asks me to defend the responsible adult use of marijuana as a civil liberty I jump at an opportunity to collaborate with them.

You're referring to the program you recently hosted called "Marijuana: It's Time For a Conversation" which they sponsored, correct? How did that project come about? I am a rare person with any celebrity who will talk candidly



about how counter-productive our country's marijuana laws are. I guess I was the best person available to host the program that the ACLU wanted to produce. They chose Seattle as the place to first air the show and that's my hometown.

Can you tell us a little more about the program? Who is participating in "the conversation?" What demographic is it aimed towards? The ACLU production is aimed at loving yet fearful suburban parents who get lots of propaganda about the evils of pot but don't really understand the issue beyond that. The hope is that people will see this as not a "pro-marijuana" show because it isn't. It's an opportunity to take another look at a needless war that is being waged at great expense to our society that is actually more damaging to our society than problem cannabis use ever has been.

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THE HIGH TIMES INTERVIEW



Left to right: Keith Stroup, Tommy Chong, Rick Steves and Allen St. Pierre.

“As long as people lead double lives by enjoying pot secretly, politicians will continue to believe it’s political suicide to deal with this.”

Weren't there some problems getting it aired?

The major stations in Seattle have decided that talking about drug laws is too dicey for them so they refused to sell the ACLU any time slot to air their program. I think the program is smart, insightful and important for caring citizens to view. But mainstream media just isn't quite ready to broach the issue.

Have you approached any other networks, in other parts of the country about possibly airing it? All I know in this regard is that most media is in the business of selling advertising and, for them, running a show giving an open and honest look at a failed drug policy with the atmosphere prevalent in our society today is not generally considered a smart move. I believe that if you care about our neighborhoods and credibility for cops, teachers, and parents when it comes to teaching young people about the dangers of drugs, then airing the show would be a public service. But that's asking an awful lot.

What do you think it will take to get the U.S. government to

change their policy towards marijuana? Realistically, how long do you think it will take? I think we are making progress but there's still too much fear and not enough understanding. If everyone who believes that marijuana is a soft drug and that enjoying it responsibly is a civil right simply came out and said so in polite company we'd be there. The country can't arrest 80 million people. But as long as people lead double lives by enjoying pot secretly, as long as stoners are scary to hockey moms, and as long as fear trumps reason, politicians will continue to believe it's political suicide to deal with this. If you enjoy pot as a responsible adult, be a good citizen, be engaged constructively in your community, take the giggle factor out of the argument, learn the facts, join NORML, and spread the word that criminalizing marijuana is the prohibition of our age—as harmful to society today as the Prohibition against alcohol was eighty years ago.

For more information go to www.marijuanaconversation.org. Watch “Marijuana: It's Time For a Conversation” in its entirety at hightimes.com/tags/staffpicks.

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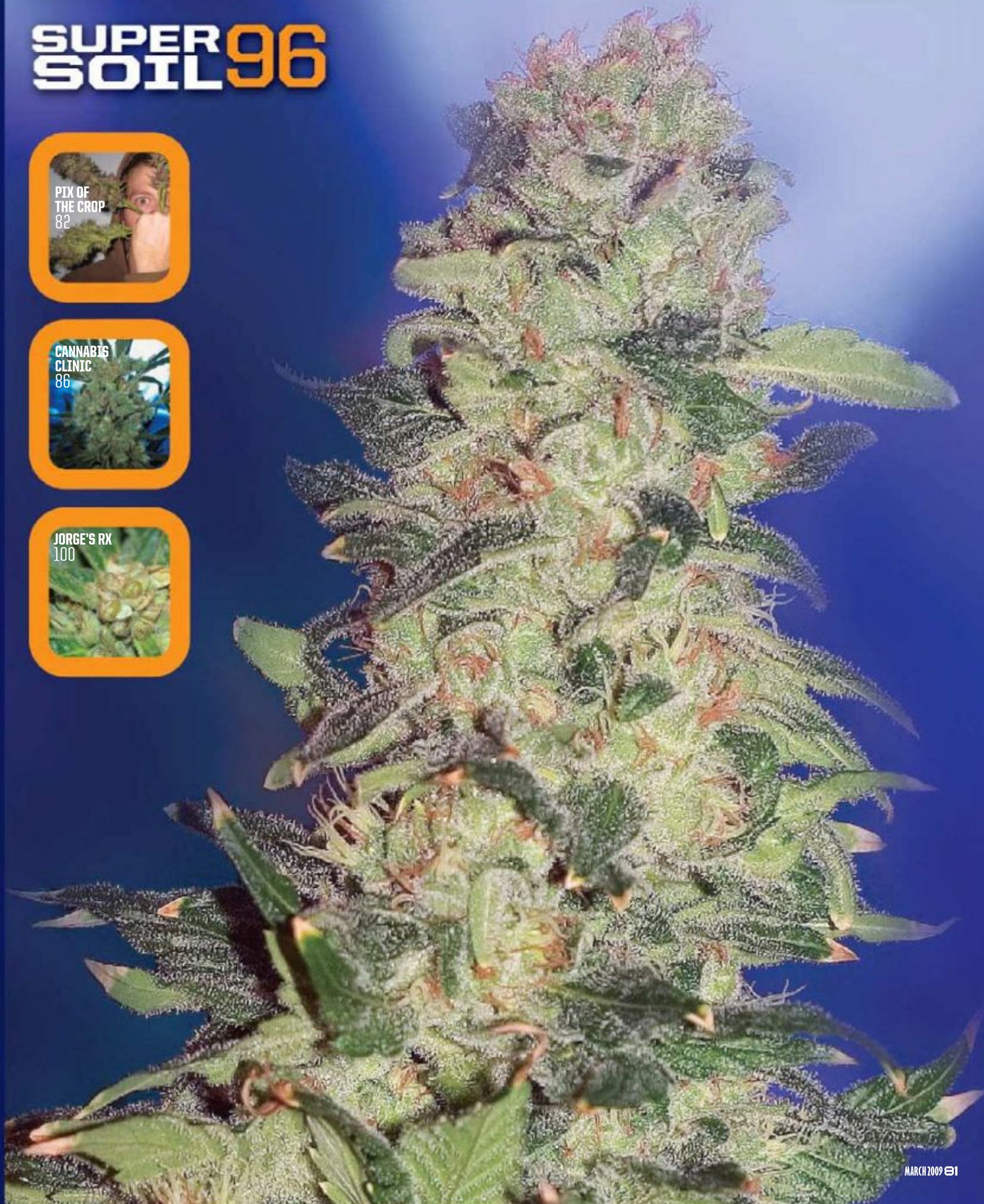
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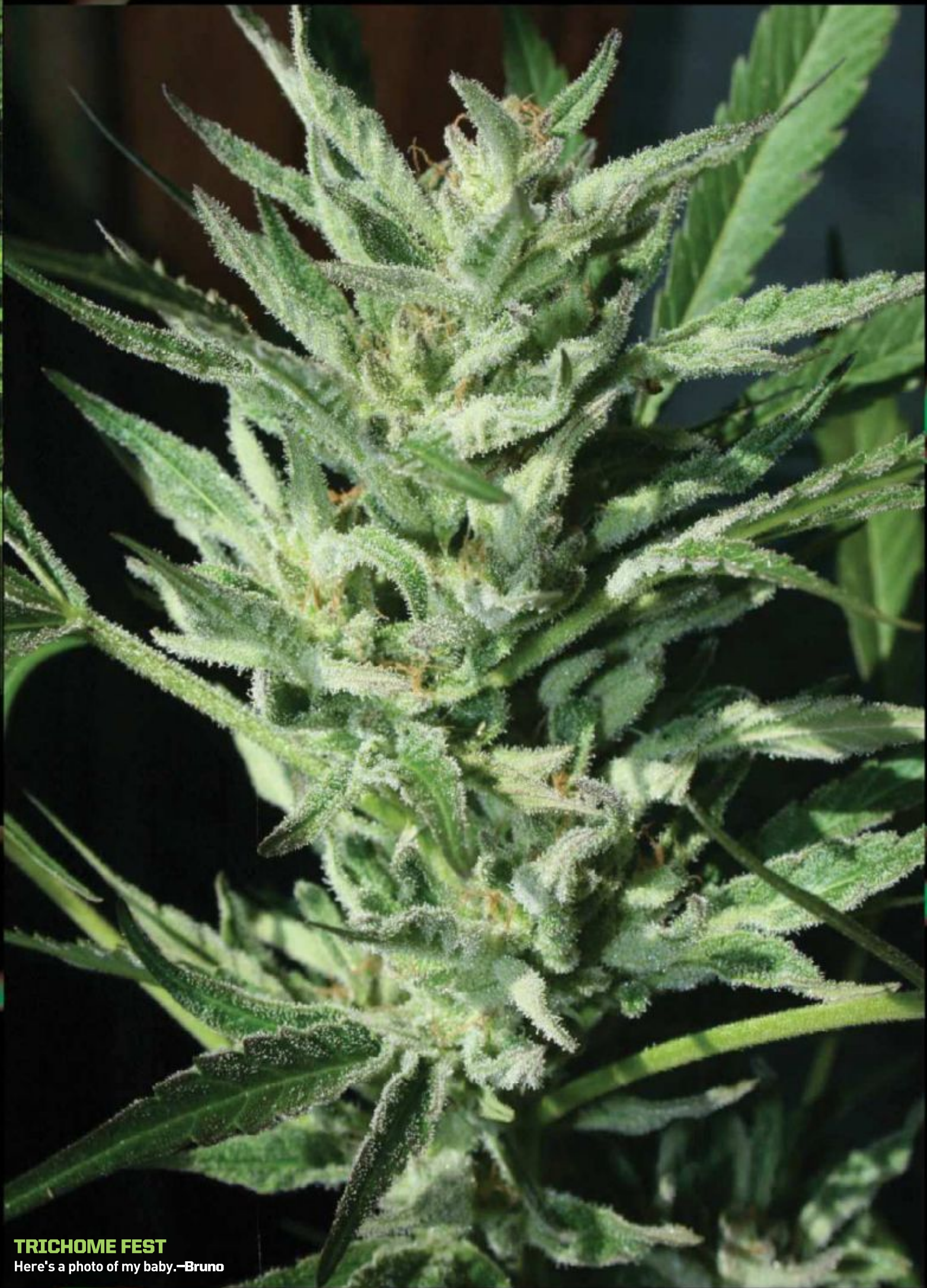
SEA OF DREAMS My flowering canopy of kind.—Robb

OUTDOOR QUEEN

I've been reading HIGH TIMES for years now and its done nothing but help grow my appreciation for marijuana. You guys made me realize that I, too, could grow the best weed in the world. I did my research before starting and ended up with some amazing plants, some amazing smoke and some amazing memories. And that's only three seasons! I still have my whole life to grow.

This is a Green Queen top cola.
—Funkaslunk





A

TRICHOME FEST
Here's a photo of my baby.—Bruno



PURPLE CANDY

This is my Purple Kush at harvest. It was grown in 3-gallon buckets, totally organic. No air conditioner, just good ventilation. Thank you HIGH TIMES for all your help. —Ripple (S.F. Bay Area)



CANADIAN COLAS (Above) These are some outdoor colas from beautiful Joe Rich, BC. They started from seed under a 1000-watt MH in our greenhouse. There was still snow on the ground . We harvested Thanksgiving weekend after a rollercoaster of a summer. —G-Fresh

HAWAIIAN PUNCH (left) Aloha, this monster Martian is from seeds acquired directly from the DNA boys private stash on a Cannabis Cup trip last year. It's the Martian Mean Green back crossed to the G-13/Haze and described it as untamable!

I started them indoor under 24 hours of light and then put them out to finish. After 4 weeks, they were root bound in 25-gallon pots. —Ranger-E

Pix of the Crop is reader-driven. Your submissions make all the stoners of the world dream of kind nugs. Send pictures (no Polaroids), tips, questions and stories to: HIGH TIMES, 419 Park Avenue South, 16th floor, New York, NY 10016. Digital photos can be e-mailed to maibag@hightimes.com and must be hi-res for publication. Remember, by submitting photograph(s) you thereby grant permission to the publisher to reprint photograph(s) in HIGH TIMES, as well as in any other Trans-High Corp. publication.

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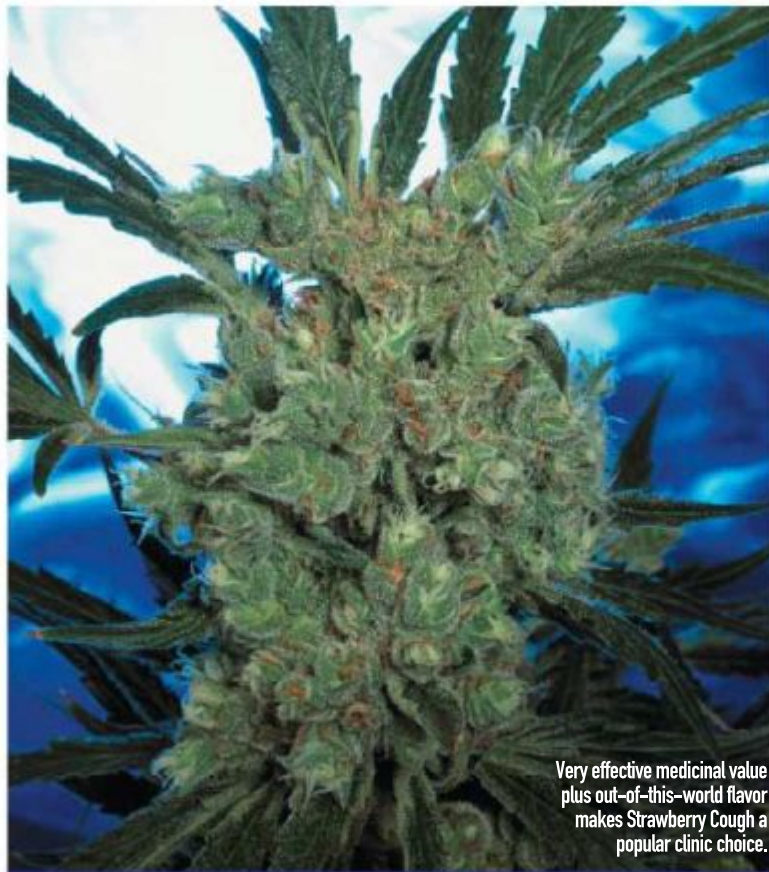
Welcome to our latest mini-section, devoted wholly to medicinal strains, news, uses, developments, activism, politics ... everything and anything, really, that is medically related to marijuana. This is your new *Cannabis Clinic*!

SATIVA VS. INDICA "I DON'T GET IT!"

No worries, friends. The last thing we want to hear is that you're confused about your meds! And believe me, we've been getting a lot of email from our good readers who are genuinely confused on the issue of *sativas* vs. *indicas*. So let's try to answer the question; after all, it is our medicine we're talking about here.

To begin with, let's clear up some confusion concerning the nomenclature of these terms. I hesitate to put all this info down here, but it's just so damn interesting how can I resist? Ready?

It was 1753 when Carolus Linnaeus (the man who devised our taxonomic nomenclature system that is still in use today) first classified the *Cannabis* genus using the modern system for the naming of species. However, when he did so he incorrectly thought the genus to be monotypic – a genus with only one species. He named it *Cannabis sativa* L. (L. standing for "Linnaeus", and indicating the authority who first named the species). Linnaeus, who was obviously not a pothead, was only familiar with European hemp, which was widely cultivated at the time for industrial use. But then in 1785 a noted evolutionary biologist named Jean-Baptiste de Lamarck published a description of a second species of *Cannabis*, which he named *Cannabis indica* Lam. This meant that *Cannabis* was in fact its own genus with its own set of species. (Note: Plant and animal classifications rank as follows; Life, Domain, Kingdom, Phylum, Class, Order, Family, Genus, Species.) Lamarck described *C. indica* as having poorer fiber quality than the *C. sativa*, but much greater utility as an inebriant. He was obviously a pothead. His



Very effective medicinal value plus out-of-this-world flavor makes Strawberry Cough a popular clinic choice.

MEDICINAL STRAIN OF THE MONTH: STRAWBERRY COUGH

Originally developed by former HIGH TIMES Cultivation Editor Kyle Kushman in the late '90s, the Strawberry Cough strain was later cultivated in Holland by the Dutch Passion seed company. This transformed the strain from a clone-only strain to the global phenomenon known today as Dutch Passion released the strain in seed form. On the west coast of the United States, however, the strain is still referred to as Kyle Kushman's Strawberry Cough.

"The Cough", as it is also sometimes called, continues to rise in popularity today. In a time when strains typically lose favor after four or five years due to the high influx of newly emerging phenotypes, Strawberry Cough has been around for almost a decade and now has made a niche for itself in medicinal markets.

With a *sativa*-dominant mix of 75 percent *sativa*, 25 percent *indica*, Strawberry Cough produces an uplifting, euphoric high that is excellent for combating mental ailments such as anxiety and depression. For recreational uses, the Cough provides energy and creativity for days of *high* activity.

The plant itself does very well indoors, growing to variable heights determined by the grower. Her *sativa*, or equatorial, lineage means you should flower her short. But, as Mr. Kushman himself says, "If you grow her larger you must keep pruning to the tip into several weeks of flowering. Do this and you can grow buds the size of pineapples." It is not uncommon to see larger-than-usual yields for *sativa* genetics when the Cough is grown tall. Yields may range from a couple of ounces to well over a quarter-pound depending on height.

The smell and flavor of the Cough are second to none and are true to name. A pungent strawberry aroma will fill growrooms before harvest and after proper curing one whiff of the bud is intoxicating. Although the lineage of the strain is unclear, it is offered by Dutch Passion as a Purple variety (though growers rarely see signs of purple color) and it is generally considered to be a Haze hybrid.

The creamy and expansive smoke of Strawberry Cough was reason enough for the addition of "Cough" to its first name and it is true to form – even small hits can cause full-blown cough attacks. It's for this reason we recommend using a vaporizer when smoking the Cough... after all, it is medication; may as well be healthy when smoking it too!

description of the newly named species was largely based on plant specimens he collected in India, hence *indica*.

So you see, the original scientific name incorrectly included the word *sativa*. *Sativa* is, in fact, only one of three species of the *Cannabis* genus. The other two *Cannabis*

species are *indica* and *ruderalis* – the latter of which you'll rarely see as it mostly grows in the wild or is cultivated for its strong fiber.

DIFFERENT HIGHS & STONES OF SATIVA & INDICA

OK, OK. What about the good stuff? You want to know about your *meds*,

not about their names. I get it. Here goes...

It doesn't go without saying that many patients today prefer *sativa* highs as their choice for medication. Once upon a time it was thought that the predominantly *indica* strains provided the most medicinal value to patients. This thinking was due, in part, to the fact that many *indica* varieties have high levels of CBD, one of the main active cannabinoids in marijuana. (Check out *Cannabis Clinic* on pg. 86 in the January 2009 issue, HT #396, for more information on the various cannabinoid levels of *Cannabis*.)

It was also thought, incorrectly, that *indicas* were stronger, in general, than *sativas*. This might have been true once when *sativas* were grown for their fiber, but today, *sativa* varieties hold their own in THC levels, often reaching the 20 percent mark that denotes extreme potency.

Depending on the illness or ailments, the type of high associated with each type of *Cannabis* can be very important. For instance, *indicas* are known for their strong body high and therefore are effective in relieving pain. Patients will feel more *stoned* when using an *indica*, whereas the high of a *sativa* is just that – more of a feeling of being *high*.

In a general sense, *sativas* are lighter on the body and produce more of a cerebral high. This is perhaps the reason that at the onset of the medicinal revolution people were looking more towards *indicas* as medicine. Because meds often-times treat physical symptoms and pain, *sativas* were less often considered. However, with the rise of medicinal states and needed treatments for all types of symptoms – both physical and mental – the popularity of *sativas* for medicine has risen significantly.

An *indica* high can have varying effects for patients. *Indicas* are often used to help with pain, relax muscles, aid in sleep and stimulate appetite. Strong *indicas* are excellent replacements for pharmaceutical drugs such as Valium, Prozac or low-level pain killers. *Sativas* have been known to replace prescribed pharmaceuticals such as Ritalin or Xanax. Of course, in the traditional sense, there's nothing quite like enjoying your favorite *indica* and sinking into the couch for a movie or sampling a fine *sativa* and taking a nice hike through the woods. Remember, enjoy and stay safe! ✨

Got medical questions? Pass 'em over to Nico at nico@hightimes.com.

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Ding-dong, the witch is dead! Eight inter-minable years of white-bread fascist jack-boots on the neck of our collective soul have finally come to an end. With ferocity of determination, we've cast our votes for diplomacy, parity and progress; we've voted against imperialism, hegemony and mendaciousness. May Bush and Cheney burn in hell, or at least The Hague. The time of Terror has gone. The time has come to Rise.

We fretted for months. We waited in three-hour lines in the wrong shoes at our polling stations, surrounded by more first-time voters than we ever knew existed. We paced like women in labor at a horse race watching the election returns, poised to celebrate or riot. For political junkies, it was the biggest rush in history.

This is a new beginning. America has given truth to the tale that in this country, anyone can be anything they want to be—even president—and that, yes, hard work and education pay off... and so do impossible dreams. We have proven, despite Bush or perhaps because of him, that we are not just a nation of redneck sheeple, insularized from our international depreciation by a cloud of willful ignorance, blind fear and Fox News talking points. The door to the Good Ol' Boys' Club has been bloodlessly unhinged; we've embraced fabulous cultural fusion and the exciting flavor of progress. Has victory ever tasted quite so sweet?

In honor of this auspicious occasion, I've concocted a turnover called the Obamamosa. Like our president-elect, this party choice was born of the marriage and overlap of multiple cultures, but is ultimately an American amalgamation. Obama and samosas have two things in common:



Puff pastry stuffed with smothered greens and tilapia, topped with a mango sauce.

Both are adored worldwide, and both are judged by what they have inside. In keeping with the spirit of our new diplomat in chief, I've sought a culinary common ground between the US and the rest of the world.

Tilapia is a fish that's widely consumed in both Hawaii (where Obama was born) and Kenya (his father's homeland). Mangoes grow in both places, as well as Indonesia (mango trees shade his step-grandmother's tin-roofed house in Kogelo). Another staple in Kenya is a dish called *sukuma wiki*, which is Swahili for "stretch the week." Given our current economic shit storm, stretching the week is something we probably all need to do. *Sukuma wiki* is like the smothered greens ubiquitous in Southern soul food, but without the pork, which folks in Washington need to cut out anyway. And, of course, weed is a global panacea, uniting the diverse wherever it's indulged. Wrap it all up in a classic puff pastry and you have an Obamamosa.

And by the way: God bless America!
—Ashley Kennedy

OBAMAMOSAS

- | | |
|--|--|
| ¼ oz commercial ganja or
1/8 oz kind bud, cleaned | 1 cup coconut milk |
| ½ stick of butter | 2 cups (cooked) kale, collard
or spinach greens |
| 1 tilapia filet | 1 cup diced tomato |
| ¼ cup mango puree | 2 tsp green-onion tops |
| Curry powder | 2 tsp finely chopped cilantro |
| Ginger powder | 1 small lime |
| 2 tbsp flour | 1 package frozen puff pastry |

DIRECTIONS: Squeeze one-half of the lime over the tilapia filet. Rub it down with a thin layer of curry and ginger powder. Grill or bake until tender and flaky. Dice into small chunks.

For the *sukuma wiki*, braise the greens with tomatoes and onions. Cool and squeeze to strain.

For the sauce, simmer the ganja and butter together in a double-boiler over low heat for 45 minutes. Strain the butter into a skillet (reserving what's left on the sides of the double-boiler to brush onto the puff pastry). Add flour to the butter in the skillet and whisk over low heat until the lumps are gone. Add coconut milk, mango puree, the other half of the lime, cilantro and more curry to taste. Stir until the sauce thickens to a consistency you dig; toy with it if it makes you happy.

Now put it all together. Layer the *sukuma wiki* and fish on three-inch squares of puff pastry, then fold them into triangles, sealing the edges with water and pressing with a fork before brushing the pastries with ganja butter. Bake at 300°F until golden brown. Serve drizzled with the warm mango-ganja sauce (plus some for dipping) and the remaining *sukuma wiki* on the side. Stones six, with three to a serving. ✨

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CHANGE YOU CAN BREATHE IN

Looking forward to the end of marijuana prohibition.

For nearly two years, as the centerpiece of his campaign for president, Barack Obama offered the nation a message of hope, along with a promise to bring fundamental change to our nation's government. I, along with millions of other responsible cannabis consumers, welcome that change wholeheartedly. In fact, 38 years ago, Keith Stroup founded NORML to promote a similar message—namely, that this country needs to change antiquated, misguided and oppressive marijuana policies that illogically target responsible cannabis consumers.



Who has one thumb and might support marijuana law reform?

Since 1970, we've never stopped lobbying on your behalf, especially given that, in 2007 alone, our current system and policies led to the arrest of over 872,000 Americans on marijuana charges—a tragic milestone never before experienced in our nation's history, and one that we should never repeat.

The good news is that as the "winds of change" swept across America on November 4th, they gave the cannabis community numerous political and cultural victories. See Paul Armantano's story "Will Obama Legalize It?" on page 93 for a complete recap of our election night triumphs, including victories on the local, state, and national level. All across America, and particularly in Michigan and Massachusetts, voters soundly rejected organized opposition by local law enforcement and federal officials from the Drug Czar's office—indicating once again that the message of groups like NORML, not the White House, shapes the public's views about cannabis.

At the federal level, for the first time in nearly three decades, I believe that we have a president and a Congress willing to undertake a rational and scientific review of America's disastrous cannabis policies. That's why NORML is calling on the Obama administration and the members of the 111th Congress to create a bipartisan presidential commission to review the budgetary, social and health costs associated with federal marijuana prohibition, and to make progressive recommendations for future policy changes.

Of course, America empowered just such a blue-ribbon commission once before: the Shafer Commission, which in 1972 concluded, "The criminal law is too harsh a tool to apply to personal possession even in the effort to discourage use It implies an overwhelming indictment of the behavior which we believe is not appropriate. The actual and potential harm of use of the drug is not great enough to justify intrusion by the criminal law into private behavior, a step which our society takes only with the greatest reluctance."

And yet, since the publication of the Shafer report in 1972, an estimated 18 million Americans have been busted for cannabis use—nearly nine out of 10 for possession *only*, the very "crime" that the Shafer Commission recommended lawmakers cease prosecuting.

So that's one more thing we need to change—and by joining NORML today, you can help bring us that much closer to the end of marijuana prohibition. — Allen St. Pierre, Executive Director of NORML

FREEDOM FIGHTER

Mark Pedersen Rolls On for Reform

As founder of the Cannabis Patient Network, director of Greater St. Louis NORML and founder of Americans for Safe Access of St. Louis, Mark Pedersen works hard for the cannabis-law reform movement—and he works for free.

"I don't hold a paying position with any organization," Pedersen tells HIGH TIMES, upon learning of his selection as Freedom Fighter of the Month. "I finance most of my work from my disability and part-time jobs."

Pedersen's dedication stems from the fact that he's a medical-cannabis patient himself. He first became an activist while working with a group called Journey for Justice, a rolling protest by cannabis patients—some on bicycles, others in wheelchairs—that brings the group's message about medical marijuana to citizens all across the country, and directly to lawmakers in Washington, DC.

Pedersen contributed by driving a support

truck, serving as on-road coordinator, and collecting video testimonies from patients, their family members and physicians. Following four and a half months on the road, Mark continued collecting videos for another two years, while simultaneously organizing patient delegations to lobby for the passage of Missouri's Medical Cannabis Compassion Bill, which he had a hand in writing.

As if Mark didn't have enough on his plate, he's also begun to organize an all-day medical-marijuana event under the Gateway Arch in St. Louis. If you want to help, or to view his compelling medical marijuana testimonial videos, start by logging on to cannabispatient.net.— Carlos Castillo



Mark Pedersen

Ask Dr. Mitch



Dr. Mitch, I used to get high right before bed and sleep like a log. Now, all of a sudden, I take a little hit and I'm up all night. What gives?

Pappa Soma

Hey Pappa, Sounds like you've switched strains, perhaps to one with a lower THC and higher CBD [cannabidiol] content. THC, the most legendary of the 60-plus cannabinoids unique to the marijuana plant, appears to improve sleep—but new research on CBD, another cannabinoid, suggests that it actually perks folks up.

In general, maintaining good sleep hygiene is the best way to get a good night's rest. Go to bed and wake up at the same time every day, reserve your bed for sleeping (and sex), and keep away from caffeine and stimulants in the afternoon. Sounds basic, but you'll be snoozing away like you wouldn't believe.

Is it true that you can fool a drug test with meat tenderizer?

Chef

Hi Chef, An HT article back in 2006 mentioned that papain, an enzyme from the papaya plant, can decrease THC metabolites in the urine. The article inspired a big study at the Armed Forces Institute of Pathology. (I guess their HT subscription keeps them in the know!) Sure enough, about a quarter-gram of meat tenderizer with papain lowered THC metabolites and fooled some of the drug tests. Note that MSG, another popular meat tenderizer, hasn't been tested. As always, read your labels.

Can marijuana help seizures?

Jay

Hi Jay, Cannabis was first prescribed for epileptic seizures in the 1400s, and the legendary Dr. William Brooke O'Shaughnessy used hash to treat convulsions in 1842. These days, hundreds of medical users swear by it, and one modern study suggests that the cannabinoid CBD can indeed provide help for some people. But seizures are nothing to play with, so definitely see a physician. New anti-seizure medications are being developed all the time, but no single one seems to work for everyone.

Dr. Mitch Earleywine, Ph.D., is an associate professor of psychology at SUNY Albany. He is the author of *Understanding Marijuana* and *The Parents' Guide to Marijuana*. Got a question for Dr. Mitch? Email him at 420research@gmail.com.

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WILL OBAMA LEGALIZE IT?

Election Day 2008 marked the end of an error. For the cannabis community, change couldn't come soon enough.



"I inhaled frequently," Obama candidly admitted. "That was the point."

BY PAUL ARMENTANO

Over the last eight years, America's 25 million regular marijuana users have lived under a dark cloud—namely, the federal government's draconian assault on their lives and liberties. The police made an unprecedented 6.3 million pot arrests under President Bush, who also reneged on a campaign promise to let states decide their own medical-marijuana policies, resulting in the indictment of more than 100 state-authorized cannabis patients and providers, many of them now serving multi-decade sentences in federal prison. Meanwhile, John Walters, our nation's longest-serving and least competent Drug Czar, railed senselessly about weed—blaming pot smokers for September 11, equating the therapeutic use of cannabis to "medicinal crack," and alleging that not one single American is serving time behind bars for pot possession.

Now our community turns its hopeful eyes to a new president, and perhaps our best opportunity in more than three decades to help usher in a new direction in pot policy. So what are some practical and immediate steps that the Obama administration can take to de-escalate the senseless war on marijuana smokers?

First and foremost, the new president must uphold his campaign promise to end the federal prosecution of state-authorized med-pot patients and providers. President Obama can

SMOKE THE VOTE

Marijuana-law reform wins big at the ballot box.

Millions of Americans nationwide cast votes in favor of pot-law reform, approving 10 out of 11 ballot measures aimed at freeing the weed.

Massachusetts: 65 percent of voters approved Question 2, which replaces criminal penalties for the possession of up to one ounce of marijuana—formerly punishable by up to six months in jail and a \$500 fine—with a civil fine of no more than \$100.

Michigan: 63 percent of voters approved Proposal 1, which legalizes the physician-supervised use and cultivation of cannabis by qualified patients. Michigan is the 13th state since 1996 to authorize the use of med-pot under state law, as well as the ninth to do so at the ballot box.

Voters in various municipalities around the country also backed local pro-pot initiatives.

Arkansas: 66 percent of voters in Fayetteville (population: 67,000) approved Question 16, which directs local police to make all activities related to the investigation and prosecution of adults for possession of up to one ounce of marijuana their lowest law enforcement priority.

Hawaii: Voters on the Big Island (population: 172,000) approved a similar initiative (Ballot Question 1) urging police to make adult possession of up to 24 ounces of cannabis and/or 24 plants for personal use their lowest law enforcement priority. The measure also directs the City Council to reject federal funding for local pot-eradication efforts.

Massachusetts: Voters in four state House districts (encompassing 15 towns) passed nonbinding public policy questions directing each district's state representative to vote in favor of legislation to legalize the medical use of cannabis.

Michigan: 71 percent of voters in Ferndale (population 22,000) approved a measure authorizing private entities to dispense medical cannabis to authorized patients.

Berkeley, CA (population: 101,000): Voters endorsed Measure JJ, which eliminates local limits on how much medical marijuana a patient may possess, as well as liberalizing municipal zoning guidelines for patient dispensaries.



Obama back in his pot-smoking heyday.

OBAMA ON WEED

While President Obama's past fondness for weed is well documented—"I inhaled frequently," he has candidly admitted, "that was the point"—his current stance on marijuana policy is hazier. Speaking at Northwestern University in January 2004, Obama called America's so-called "War on Drugs" an "utter failure" and stated that "we need to rethink and decriminalize our marijuana laws." He later reversed this pro-pot position during a Democratic primary debate in 2007, raising his hand in opposition to decriminalization. Following the debate, Obama's handlers claimed that he'd misunderstood the moderator's question and reasserted that the Democratic contender had, in fact, "always" supported decriminalization. Hours later, however, the campaign reversed course again, telling the *Washington Times* that Obama opposed decriminalizing weed.

Our 44th president's stance on the use of medical pot is far clearer. On the campaign trail, Obama pledged to end federal interference in states that have legalized the use of medical cannabis, stating: "I would not have the Justice Department prosecuting and raiding medical-marijuana users. It's not a good use of our resources." Obama also said that he believes that physicians should be able to legally prescribe cannabis, but concedes that pot will not be regulated like other prescription medicines until there's a change in federal law. So would President Obama lobby for such a change? "The likelihood of that being real high on my list is not likely," he admits.

do this by appointing leaders at the Drug Enforcement Administration, the Department of Justice and the US Attorney General's Office who will respect the will of the voters in the 14 states that have already legalized the physician-supervised use of medical marijuana. Obama can further protect the health and safety of patients by encouraging the relevant government agencies to review a 2002 petition to reschedule cannabis so that doctors can prescribe it legally. (As a candidate, Obama described such a change in pot's classification as "entirely appropriate.") The president should also demand that the DEA abide by the Bittner decision, a 2007 ruling by the agency's own administrative law judge that allows for the cultivation of medical-grade cannabis by non-governmental entities.

Finally, Obama can use the power of the executive office to encourage broader marijuana-policy reforms, specifically by calling for the creation of a bipartisan presidential commission to review the budgetary, social and health costs associated with federal marijuana prohibition. A rational, open-minded examination of this issue would almost certainly lead the Obama administration to join forces with leading Democrats like House Speaker Nancy Pelosi (D-California) and Massachusetts Congressman Barney Frank (D-Massachusetts) in calling for an end to federal penalties for any cannabis use by adults.

These are just a few of the actions that Barack Obama could—and should—take as America's 44th president. But will he? The answer remains largely up to us. Remember, the new administration presents us not with a solution, but with an opportunity. It's up to us to seize it by continuing our civic engagement well beyond Election Day. ✨



WHAT'S NEXT?

Leading marijuana activists look to a brighter future.

Keith Stroup, Esq., founder of NORML: "Without question, we will be working in a far more favorable political environment under an Obama administration than we have seen since back in the mid-1970s. Within the first year of the new administration, we can get a federal decriminalization bill introduced in both houses of Congress, and can get hearings scheduled in the House and Senate Judiciary committees. We should get the bill favorably voted out of committee and referred to the floor for a House and Senate vote, and with a little luck—and a lot of hard work—it is not impossible that we could actually pass this measure by the end of Obama's first term."



Kris Krane, executive director of Students for Sensible Drug Policy: "I don't think there's any way Obama will 'legalize it,' but I do see some reforms on the horizon. We're hopeful that an Obama administration will cut funding for several Drug War-related programs that adversely impact young people, including the National Youth Anti-Drug Media Campaign and federally funded random student drug testing. SSDP's main agenda will be lobbying the Department of Education to repeal the federal ban on student aid for drug offenders. We're hopeful that an Obama administration will work with us to provide students greater access to higher education."



Dr. Dale Gieringer, director of California NORML: "From a California perspective, our number one hope is that President Obama will follow through on his promise to end the DEA's medical-marijuana raids on state-authorized patients and dispensaries. To do so will entail a host of policy changes by federal agencies such as the DEA, the Justice Department, the Office of National Drug Control Policy, and the US Department of Health and Human Services—and, ultimately, the reclassification of marijuana under federal law, a process that's likely to take years to unfold."



Steve Epstein, Esq., Mass/Cann NORML: "I expect in the short term that all 10 members of the Massachusetts delegation in the House, and our two senators, will join US Congressman Barney Frank as co-sponsors of legislation to reschedule marijuana for prescription use. I expect them to also join Representative Frank as co-sponsors of legislation to eliminate most federal penalties for the personal possession of marijuana, which would permit states to experiment with regulatory schemes as they do with tobacco, beer, wine and hard cider."

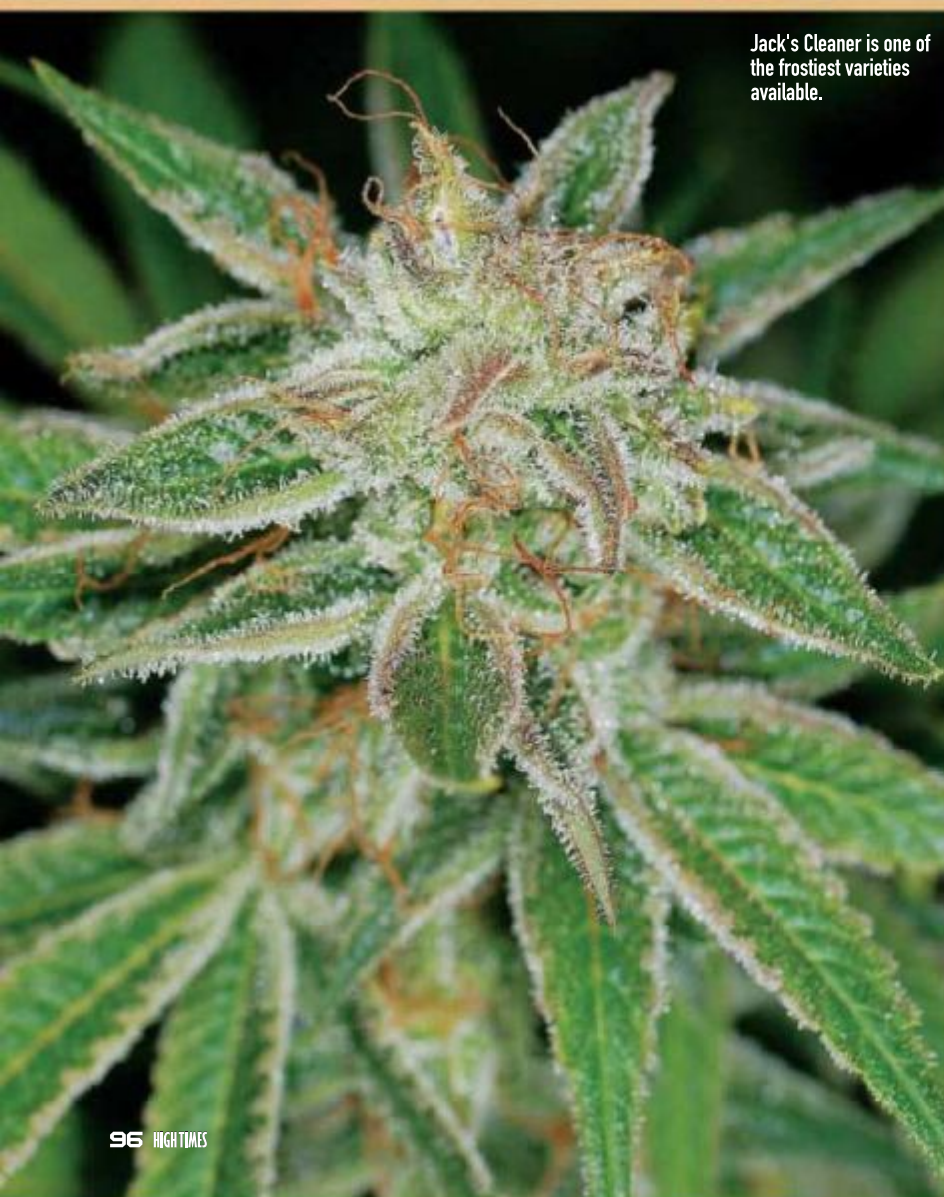


Rob Kampa, executive director of the Marijuana Policy Project: "Rather than asking the Obama administration to take bold action, we're going to start by asking them to adopt a policy of *inaction* on at least four fronts—to end the DEA's raids in California, to stop threatening California landlords with property forfeiture if they lease their properties to medical-marijuana dispensaries, to stop sending the Drug Czar to campaign against our ballot initiatives, and to stop lobbying governors to veto our bills. Yes, we also plan to ask the Obama administration to do more ... but it's easier to make fast progress by getting politicians to take *no* action rather than to take action."

SUBCOOL'S SUPER SOIL. STEP-BY-STEP

Master bud breeder and longtime grower Subcool reveals his tried and true tips for stirring up the perfect organic-soil mix for pot plants that taste amazing, smell incredible and pack a potent, intoxicating punch. **Story by Subcool, photos by Subcool & MzJill**

Always stir your mix together to blend all of the ingredients.



Jack's Cleaner is one of the frostiest varieties available.

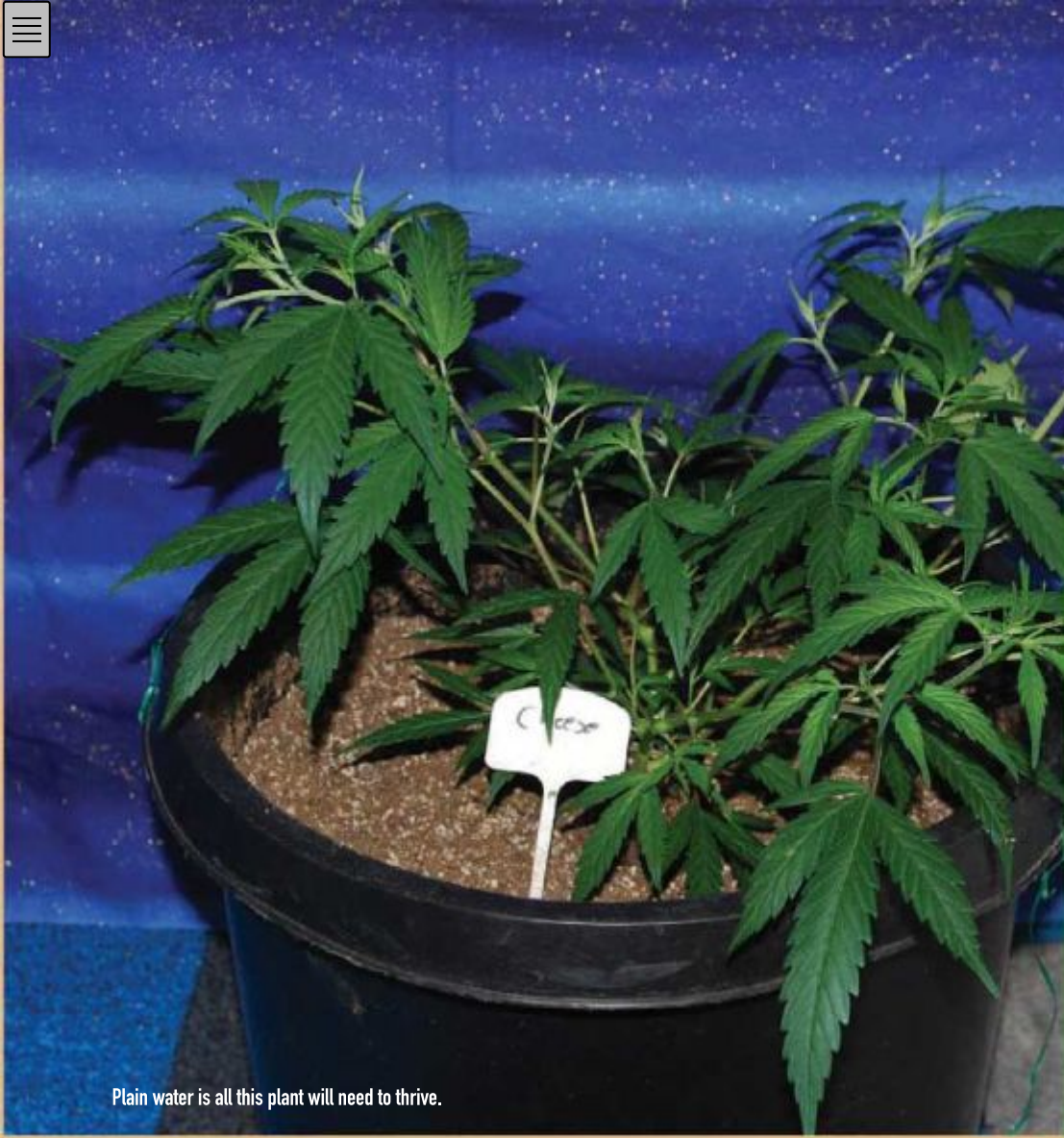


A mask will keep tiny particles in the air from irritating your throat and lungs.

There's nothing that compares to the flavor of properly grown organic pot: The subtle tastes and aromas created by using only "Mother Earth" are overwhelming to the senses when it's done properly. As with vegetables, a rich organic soil can bring out the best in cannabis.

Over the past 20 years, I have tried almost every possible way to cultivate our favorite plant. And while hydro is certainly faster and the yields blow soil away, I've developed an organic-soil mix that consistently performs extremely well, with very little guesswork involved (i.e., I don't have to worry about pH or ppms ever).

I spent a few years developing the recipe for this Super Soil mix, and using it in 7-gallon nursery pots, I can run from start to finish adding only plain water. Other than a bit of sweat equity every 90 days or so, using this soil takes a huge amount of the science out of gardening and puts nature back in charge. Also, the recipe is always changing in slight ways as I continue to fine-tune it in my efforts to achieve perfection.



Plain water is all this plant will need to thrive.

THE BASE

Start with at least six to eight large bags of high-quality organic soil. This is your base soil—i.e., your regular potting soil without the additives. The selection of your base soil is very important, so don't cut corners here. I can't begin to discuss all the different products out there, but I will mention a few in this article. A good organic soil should cost you from \$8 to \$10 per 30-pound bag. Since I want to give you a very specific idea of what I consider to be a balanced soil, take a look at the ingredients in a product called Roots Organic:

Lignite, coco fiber, perlite, pumice, compost, peat moss, bone meal, bat guano, kelp meal, greensand, soybean meal, leonardite, k-mag, glacial rock dust, alfalfa meal, oyster shell flour, earthworm castings and mycorrhizae.

Another local product we're trying out now, Harvest Moon, has the following ingredients: *Washed coco fibers, Alaskan peat moss, perlite, yucca, pumice, diatoms, worm castings, feather meal, fishmeal, kelp meal, limestone, gypsum, soybean meal, alfalfa meal, rock dust, yucca meal and mycorrhizae fungi.*

So far we've found that Roots Organic produces a more floral smell in the finished buds, while Harvest Moon generates larger yields.

If you have access to a good local mix like these, then I highly recommend starting with a product of this type. We've also had decent results using commercial brands, but never "as is." The best results we've had to date using a well-known commercial soil has been with Fox Farms' Ocean Forest soil combined in a 2-to-1 ratio with Light Warrior. Used on its own, Ocean Forest is known for burning plants and having the wrong ratio of nutrients, but when cut with Light Warrior, it makes a pretty good base-soil mix.

You can also just use two bales of Sunshine Mix #4, but this would be my last choice, since plants grown in this mix may not respond well to my "just add water" method of growing.

After choosing your base soil, the Super Soil concentrate is placed in the bottom one-third to one-half of the container and blended with the base soil. (With strains that require high levels of nutrients, we'll go so far as to fill ¾ of the container with Super Soil, but this is necessary only with a small percentage of strains.) This allows the plants to grow into the concentrated Super Soil layer, which means that in the right size container, they'll need nothing but water throughout their full cycle. One of the things I like best about this soil mix is that I can drop off plants with patients, and all they have to do is water them when the soil dries out.



Gather all ingredients together before blending.

THE MIX

Here are the amounts we've found will produce the best-tasting buds and strongest medicines:

8 large bags of a high-quality organic potting soil with coco fiber and mycorrhizae (i.e., your base soil)

25 to 50 lbs of organic worm castings

5 lbs steamed bone meal

5 lbs Bloom bat guano

5 lbs blood meal

3 lbs rock phosphate

¾ cup Epson salts

½ cup sweet lime (dolomite)

½ cup azomite (trace elements)

2 tbsp powdered humic acid

This is the same basic recipe I've been using for the past 15 years. The hardest ingredient to acquire are the worm castings (especially since many people don't even know what they are. FYI: worm poop). But don't decide to just skip them: Be resourceful. After all, worms comprise up to ¾ of the living organisms found underground, and they're crucial to holding our planet together. Also, don't waste money on a "soil conditioner" with worm castings; source out some local pure worm poop with no added mulch.



Kiddie pools work well for stirring up your mix.



STIR IT UP

There are several ways to mix these ingredients well. You can sweep up a patio or garage and work there on a tarp, or you can use a plastic wading pool for kids. (These cost about 10 bucks apiece and work really well for a few seasons.) Some growers have been known to rent a cement mixer to cut down on the physical labor. Whatever method you use, all that matters in the end is that you get the ingredients mixed properly.

This can be a lot of work, so be careful not to pull a muscle if you're not used to strenuous activity. On the other hand, the physical effort involved is good for mind and body, and working with soil has kept me in pretty good shape. But if you have physical limitations, you can simply have someone mix it up for you while you supervise. As far as the proper steps go: Pour a few bags of base soil into your mixing container first, making a mound. Then pour the powdered nutrients in a circle around the mound and cover everything with another bag of base soil. In goes the bat poop and then more base soil. I continue this process of layering soil and additives until everything has been added to the pile.

Now I put on my muck boots, which help me kick the soil around and get it mixed up well using my larger and stronger leg muscles instead of my arms. The rest is simple; as my skipper used to say, "Put your back into it." This is hard work that I obsess over, even breaking up all the soil clods by hand. I work on the pile for at least 15 minutes, turning the soil over and over until it's thoroughly mixed.

Then I store my Super Soil in large garbage cans. (And before using

any of it, I pour the entire load out and mix it well once more.) Once it's placed in the cans, I water it slightly—adding three gallons of water to each large garbage can's worth. Though it makes stirring the soil harder, adding water will activate the mycorrhizae and help all the powders dissolve.

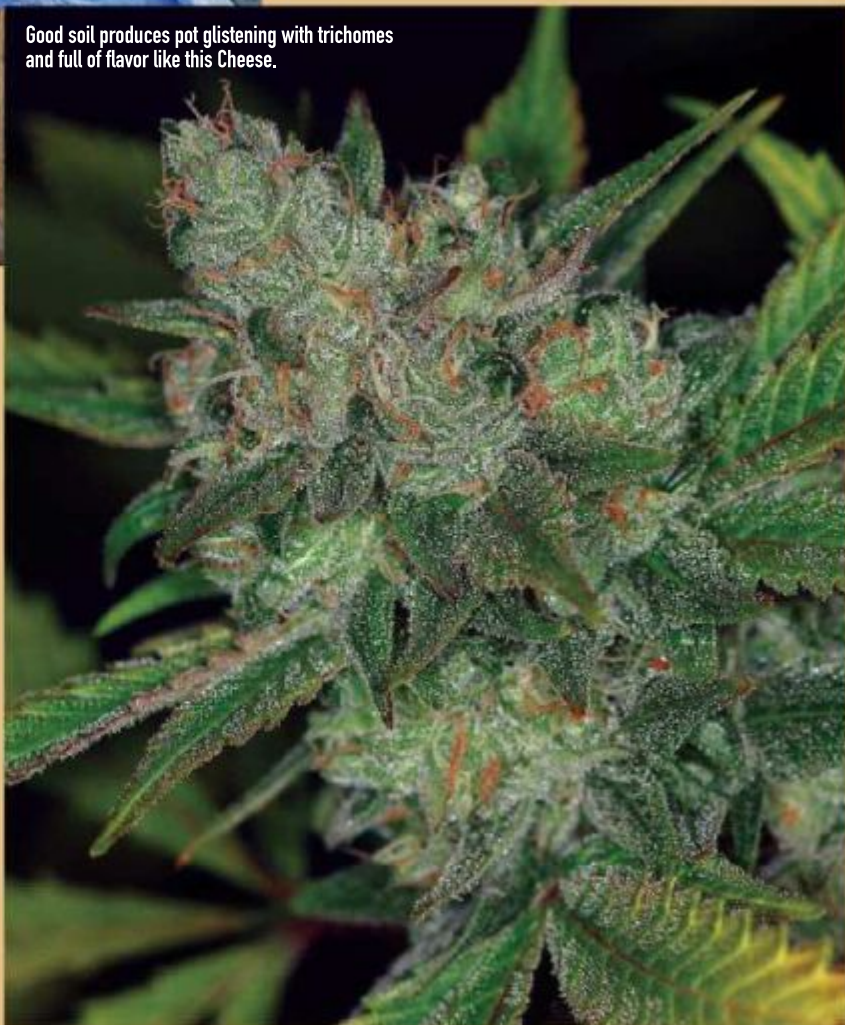
BEFORE PLANTING

So we've added the water, and now we let it cook in the sunshine—30 days is best for this concentrate. Do not put seeds or clones directly into this Super Soil mix or they will burn. This is an advanced recipe to be used in conjunction with base soil. First you place a layer of Super Soil at the bottom of each finishing container; then you layer a bed of base soil on top of the Super Soil concentrate; and then you transplant your fully rooted, established clones into the bed of base soil. As the plants grow, they'll slowly push their roots through the base soil and into the Super Soil, drawing up all the nutrients they need for a full life cycle. The Super Soil can be also be used to top-dress plants that take longer to mature. I'll use this mix for a full year.

Buds grown with this method finish with a fade and a smoother, fruitier flavor. The plants aren't green at harvest time, but rather purple, red, orange, even black—plus the resin content is heavier, and the terpenes always seem more pungent. This method is now being used by medical growers all over the world, and with amazing results. The feedback I've received is really positive, including reports of hydro-like growth and novice growers producing buds of the same high quality as lifelong cultivators. So give it a try! You won't be disappointed. ✨

Subcool is the author of Dank: The Quest for the Very Best Marijuana, available at dankgearonline.com.

Good soil produces pot glistening with trichomes and full of flavor like this Cheese.



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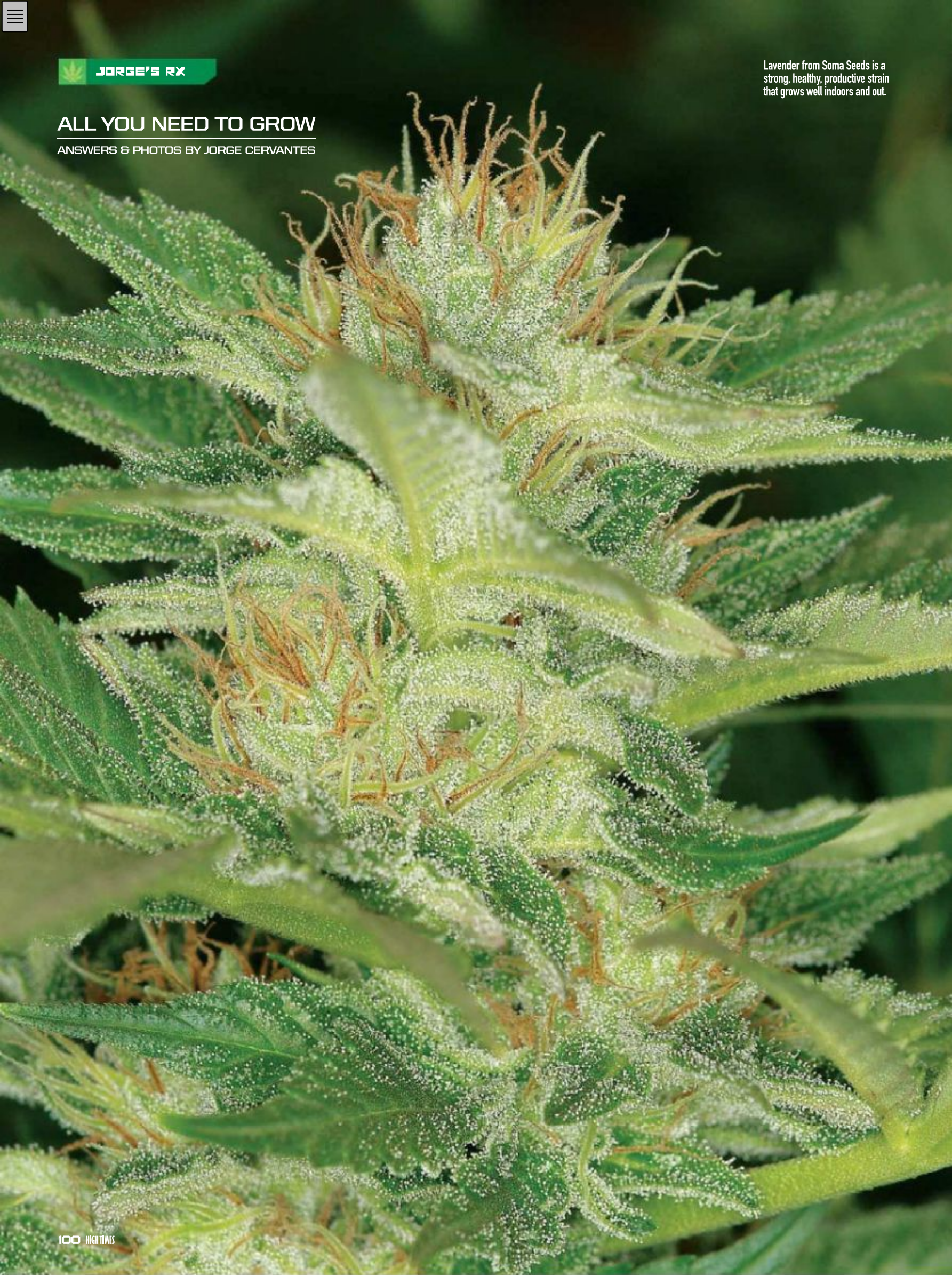


JORGE'S RX

ALL YOU NEED TO GROW

ANSWERS & PHOTOS BY JORGE CERVANTES

Lavender from Soma Seeds is a strong, healthy, productive strain that grows well indoors and out.



Conex containers make perfect growrooms. I prefer the insulated aluminum cold-storage containers.



Note: Some of the photos in this column are taken from *Marijuana Grow Basics: The Cannabis Aficionado's Easy Grow Guide*, \$21.95, Van Patten Publishing (June 2008).

HOW TO CULL

After buying your new “grow bible” (best \$30 we ever spent!!), my boyfriend and I set up a perfect little growroom. We’ve been extremely successful so far in growing eight beautiful six-week-old seedlings from high-quality Thai/Northern Lights seeds, but we’re running low on space, and we don’t imagine we’ll see male pre-flowers for another week at least. (Any tips on identification?) We’ve already removed one sickly plant, but the rest are doing well.

We’re not sure how to figure out which are the ones to get rid of—some have more leaf sets but fewer new branches or purple stems, but none are too far behind the best. Ideally, we’d like to end up flowering four robust girls. Right now, about half of them have a wonderful skunky-sweet odor, and the other half have no smell whatsoever. Does smell indicate sex in plants? If so, that would make it a lot easier to decide right now.

Thanks for your time, Jorge, and thank you so much for writing such an excellent book.

Liv
Via Internet

Dear Liv,
Congratulations on a great grow! Your problem—having to decide which of your thriving plants to

cull out—is a good one to have. Other than growing feminized seeds to begin with, I know of no way to discern male from female plants before the pre-flowering stage.

Your situation in a nutshell: You want to give space to your four best plants and toss out the others, and you’d like to figure out which ones as quickly as possible. As you suggested, you should start your selection process with smell: Short, squat, fragrant plants are most likely female and the most potent of the lot. Plants of taller stature and lankier growth could be males. Check the basic resin content by ruffling the stem of each plant to see which ones smell best. If these plants have stems with a lot of distance between the internodes, they are quite possibly males. These suspected males with minimal fragrance are the plants you want to cull: Move them out of the garden and give them enough light to grow but not flourish. With only a week until pre-flowers show, the culled plants will have no problem surviving, but they may develop their pre-flowers a few days later than the rest. And as soon as the pre-flowers show, you’ll know definitively which ones to keep.

SOIL SCIENCE

What’s the best resource to use in researching soil for growing?

Brian
Via Internet

Dear Brian,
Soil composition and chemistry can be very com-

plex. I like Wikipedia for basic research; after that, there are always the university sites, but they can quickly become very academic and technical. If you live in the USA, you should definitely check out your local County Extension Service: These are a wealth of information. Check the site extension.usu.edu for a complete list of County Extension Service offices near you. (They also have very good and extensive websites.) You can check to see if any of them are offering a master gardener’s program. This program is designed and taught by local extension agents who are well versed in the subject and have a great deal of experience with the local climate and soils—in fact, they’ll probably have a soil map of the county. You can also check out the book *Teaming With Microbes: A Gardener’s Guide to the Soil Food Web* by Jeff Lowenfels and Wayne Lewis (Timber Press, \$24.95). You can find it on Amazon at a 30 percent discount. This best-selling book will show you how to build the best organic soil. When your soil is alive and teeming with microbes, your plants will be super-healthy and problem-free!

SOUNDPROOFING

I’m trying to soundproof a noisy fan. Can you please tell me the best materials to do this? Also, are you going to this year’s Cannabis Cup? Keep the books coming, and I hope to meet you in person one day!

Chowa
Via Internet

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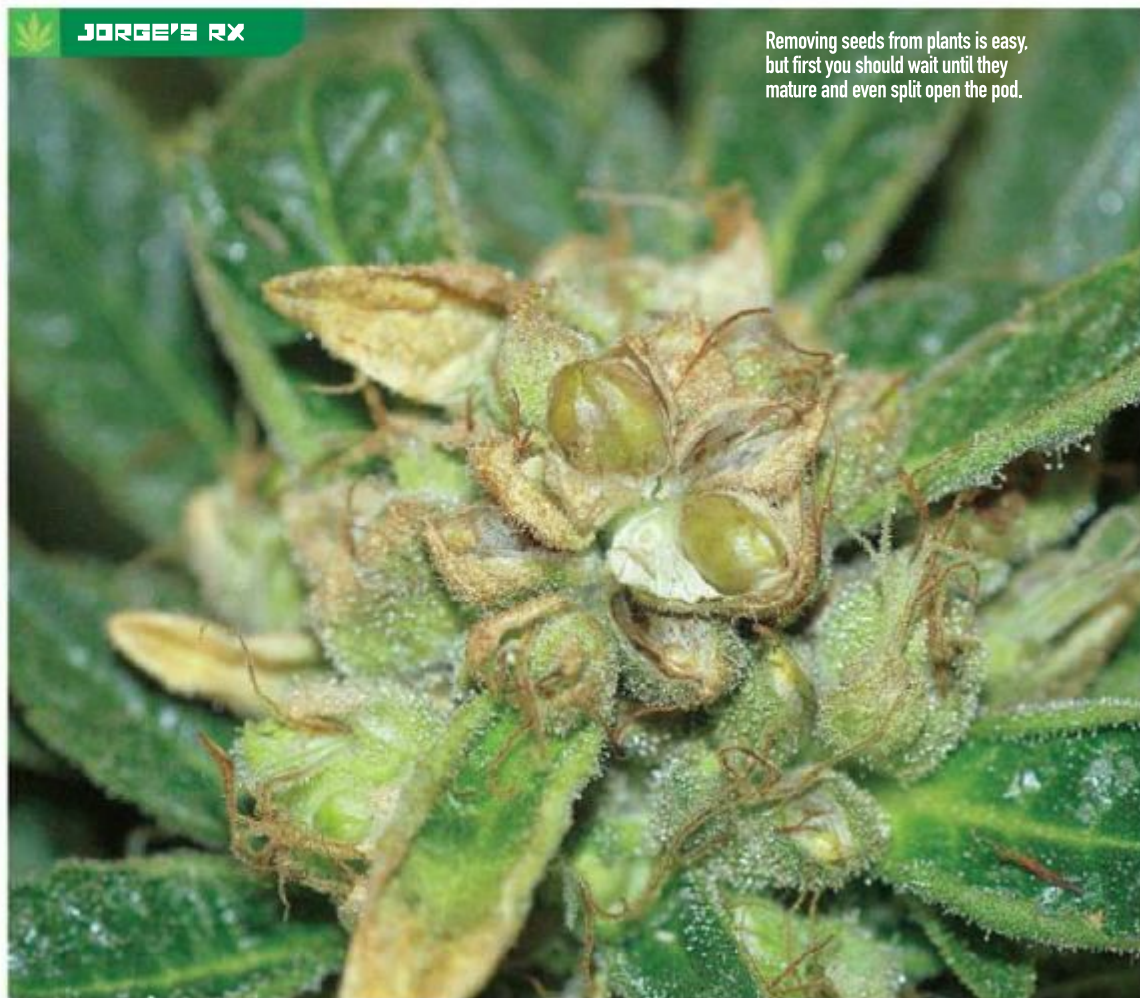
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Removing seeds from plants is easy, but first you should wait until they mature and even split open the pod.

Dear Chowa,
Thanks for the kind words. The best way to silence a noisy fan is to lubricate it. But if it has a persistent squeak, it's better to simply get a new one (and a higher-quality one: In-line fans are the quietest). You can shunt vibrations into rubber fan feet or dense foam padding; mount the padding between the fan and the wall. To baffle sound, you can always surround the fan with a wooden box lined with dense foam padding. A quick trip to the home-improvement store will help you learn about the insulating pads available. Also, fast-moving air makes noise, so another option is to get a larger-diameter fan and move the air more slowly. This will create much less noise while venting the same amount of air.

To answer your final question: Yes, I'm usually at the HIGH TIMES Cannabis Cup, and I look forward to meeting you there. I also attend the other annual cannabis fairs in Europe that were inspired by the Cup: in Spain (spannabis.com or expocannabis.com), the Netherlands (highlife.nl), Austria (cultiva.at) and Switzerland (cannatrade.ch).

HARVESTING SEEDS

I'm an avid reader of your column in HIGH TIMES, and all my grow questions have been answered except for these: How do you harvest viable seeds? Is the seeded bud still smokable, and does it give you a high at all? And when crossing strains, how does a grower keep the desired traits in the offspring? Please answer these questions in an upcoming issue of HIGH TIMES.

Minion3242
Via Internet

Dear Minion3242,
Seed crops grow best when given a completely balanced fertilizer regimen during the entire growth process to ensure that the seeds receive all of the proper nutrients for full development. When growing a seed crop, combine vegetative and flowering fertilizers during the flowering stage so that plants have plenty of nitrogen, phosphorus and potassium. (Flowering fertilizers by themselves lack certain nutrients, and you don't want to starve the plants of necessary foods, since healthy mothers produce the most healthy, viable seeds.) I prefer organic fertilizers that contain bacteria to break down the nutrients and make them usable by plants. Soils fertilized with chemical, salt-based nutrients lack this soil life.

Once you've grown a healthy crop of buds, you can harvest viable seeds after they become ripe. You'll be able to actually see the seeds in the buds; some of them will even split open their seed bracts. Most viable seeds are dark and hard, so squeeze one to see if it's difficult to crush. You can pop the seeds directly from the buds once they become ripe. If you plan to harvest many seeds, cut the plants and trim off each seeded bud. Hold each bud over a screen (to catch any dropped seeds) and pop them out by hand. I prefer to harvest seeds when the plants are freshly harvested because the foliage is supple and less resin is damaged. And yes, you can smoke the seeded buds or make hash with them.

Once you're done collecting the seeds, remove any leaves and shake (which attract moisture) and store the seeds in a cool, dark, dry place. Some growers like to put them in a refrigerator for a few weeks to simulate winter before planting.

REFLECTORS AND PRODUCTION

For many years, I've used 7-foot horizontal reflectors with great success. My plants grew an average of 3 to 4 feet in height, and my yield was at least 1 ounce per plant, with 20 plants under each light. I've been considering running 600-watt high-intensity discharge (HID) lights in my new garden. What kind of reflectors do you recommend, and how much spacing between them?

Thank you so much for your books—I own many copies and recommend them all the time!

Nick
Via Internet

Hi Nick,

Thanks for the recommendations! If you're growing under 1,000-watt lamps, the yield is 20 ounces per each 1,000-watt lamp, and so the gram-per-watt yield is 0.56 (560 grams ÷ 1,000 watts = 0.56). Growers with super-efficient growrooms and fat, heavy-producing strains are harvesting 1 gram per watt. There are a few tricks to achieving this rate of production, but they are quite simple to learn. For example, you can increase your growroom's yield by growing a perpetual crop. That is, keep one or two healthy mothers and take clones every day or so. Harvest one plant every day (or even every other day) and replace them with rooted clones that are ready to flower. Or you can take clones weekly and get similar results. Continue this schedule faithfully and your room will produce about 20 percent more.

I love 600-watt HID lamps! They are most efficient when used with an Adjust-a-Wing reflector, which is my personal favorite (adjustawings.com). One big plus of the Adjust-a-Wing is that it comes with a small deflector to diffuse the hot spot below the bulb. With no hot spot, the bulb can be placed closer to the plants, giving them more intense light. But if you're having a problem with heat buildup from the lights in your room that can't be fixed by venting, you may want to try an air-cooled fixture. Two good manufacturers for these are Hydrofarm.com and Sunlightsupply.com.

You should space the reflectors on 40-inch centers. However, I recommend purchasing a handheld light meter to measure the light coverage under the reflector: You'll be surprised how much the light intensity fluctuates. Plot the readings on a piece of graph paper and then adjust the elevation and direction of the lights so that your plants receive the most intensity.

PRE-FLOWERING

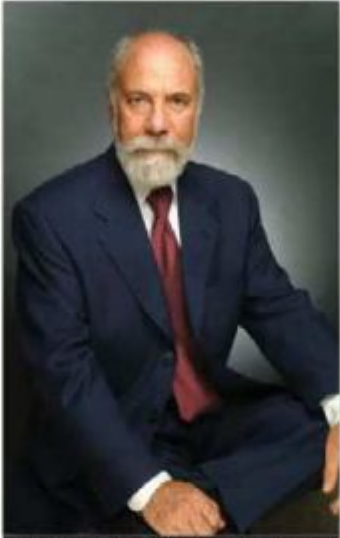
I'm a second-time grower, and I was just wondering if the pre-flowering weeks are included in the total flowering time?

ESCO
Via Internet

Dear ESCO,

No, pre-flowering occurs during the vegetative-growth stage, about two months after the seeds germinate in the soil, and culminates when the plants begin to yield male or female flowers, thus distinguishing their sex. Normally, male plants are culled once their sex has been established. Keep in mind that only plants grown from seed go through the pre-flowering stage, in which they begin to show tiny male and female flowers. Once the pre-flowers have set, these plants are ready to enter the flowering-growth stage.

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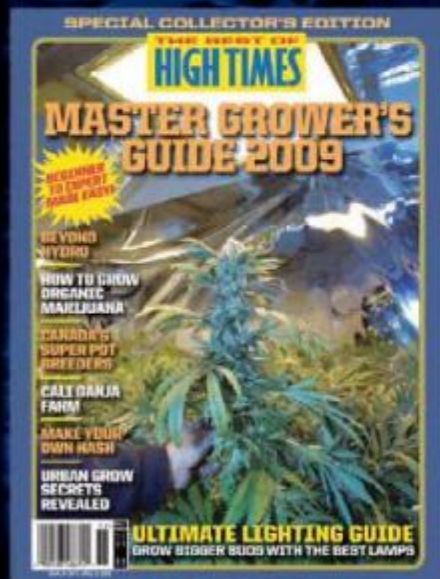
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JORGE'S RX

LIGHT SCHEDULE

When a plant reaches 1 foot in height, what would be the best light schedule for it? Also, what is the shelf life of natural versus feminized seed? I read GroWorld for the first time and plan on purchasing a number of your books. I can tell that you're very passionate and knowledgeable about your work. Thanks for your time and keep your thumbs green, my friend.

Todd D.
Via Internet

Dear Todd,

Foot-tall seedlings and clones are probably four to six weeks old and in the vegetative-growth stage. Plants require 18 to 24 hours of light during this stage, but vegetative plants require less intense light than flowering plants: For example, a single 400-watt lamp will be sufficient for a 3-by-3-foot space full of vegetative plants. If you're growing clones with strong stems and plenty of well-developed leaves, they can be induced to flower with a 12/12-hour day/night photoperiod.

Feminized seeds should stay viable for up to five years when kept in an environment with low (5%) humidity and a temperature of 40°F. Seed companies often use medical refrigerators to store their seeds, which allow them to control both humidity and temperature. If you're storing seeds at home, you should put them in a sealed container with several silicon packets to absorb moisture. And remember to remove these packets periodically to dry them out and then return them to the container.

KC39

First and foremost, Jorge, I am a great fan and have purchased your "grow bible" as well as your namesake strain (Jorge's Diamonds #1). Here's my problem: About four years ago, I got some seed from a friend and kept it going for a long time; it was called KC39. Unfortunately, I've since lost it and cannot find the strain again anywhere. Can you help?

R.C.
Via Internet

Dear R.C.,

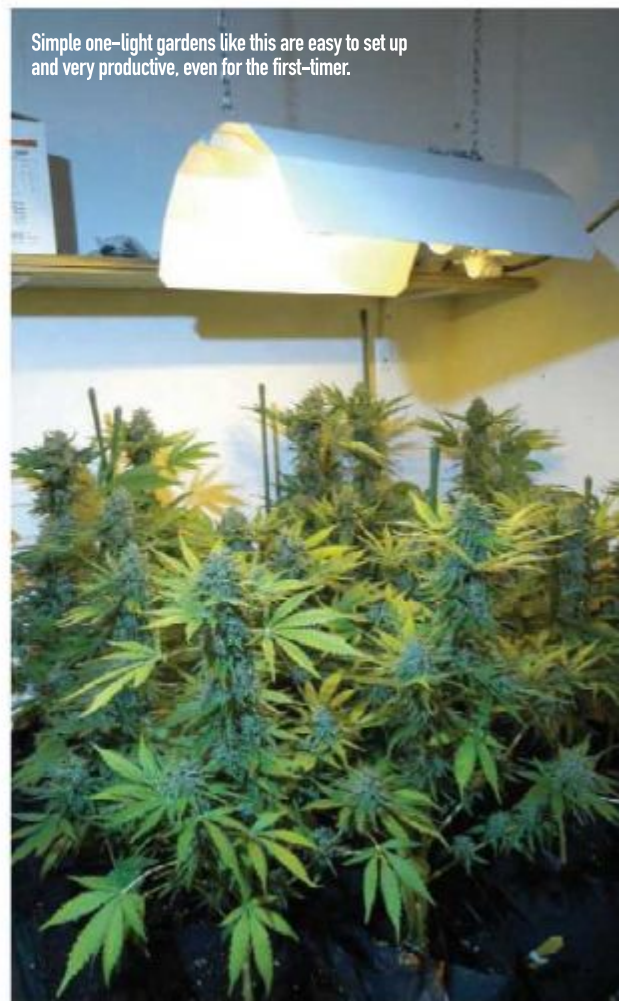
KC39 is from KC Brains, a Dutch-based seed company. The cross originated from some Spanish seeds that the proprietor, KC (who is originally from Brazil), crossed with his earlier KC66. You should still be able to find them on the Internet by searching for "KC39." KC doesn't have a website, but he usually makes an appearance at the Cannabis Cup in Amsterdam.

I'm glad that you like Jorge's Diamonds #1. We grew it outdoors this year and did quite well. The problem with growing *any* strain outdoors is that the wind tends to erode the resin on the buds. Plus the Mediterranean coastline is quite windy, and this causes the branches to slam together, further degrading the resin. Now we're growing it indoors and in a greenhouse.

HEAT LAMPS

I'm currently growing my first small garden of four plants. How well would a neodymium

Simple one-light gardens like this are easy to set up and very productive, even for the first-timer.



halogen daylight bulb for a snake tank work? Apparently, it has the same kind of color spectrum as the sun, and it definitely provides enough heat. Please let me know as soon as possible. Thanks, and keep up the good work!

Moe M.
Via Internet

Dear Moe,

I just checked out neodymium halogen lamps on the site Bulbster.com: They come in 60, 75, 100 and 150 watts, run on 120 volts, and do not require a ballast. Reptiles love them because of the heat they yield. The heat is produced via electrical resistance in a filament, which is not at all energy-efficient when producing light. Color spectrum aside, this lamp is inefficient and doesn't produce enough lumens to grow cannabis properly.

Invest a little more money (\$30) and buy a 65-watt compact fluorescent lamp (CFL) at your local home-improvement store. This CFL will provide enough light with the proper spectrum and intensity to grow a couple of plants. When your garden outgrows a single 65-watt lamp, you can always add another and another, depending on what your budget permits.

SOIL

I want to grow in soil, and this is my first time. What soil mix should I use, and which nutrients? I'm growing Da Purps from TH Seeds. What ratio should I use of perlite and vermiculite?

April420
Via Internet

Dear April420,

Soil is a good choice because it will cause you fewer problems, especially when you're starting out. I always advise growers to go to their local

nursery or hydroponics store and buy the best, fastest-draining soil they can afford. There are many soils in the world, so recommending one is difficult when I don't know what's available in your area. Therefore, your best bet is to go to your local nursery or hydro store and tell them that you're growing tomatoes, which require a similar soil. And whatever you do, stay away from the cheapo soil found at discount stores: I purchased some last year that had terrible structure and drained poorly.

Grow your seedlings in a fine soil mix that holds moisture well (and remember that seeds and seedlings are hypersensitive to soil-moisture levels). You can also often purchase a bag of fine seedling mix. But don't add vermiculite to either mix, since vermiculite retains water. Add 10% to 15% perlite to speed the drainage in all non-seedling soil. Mix the soil and vermiculite when dry for the best blend. Vermiculite must be mixed properly or it tends to float to the surface.

AROUND THE WORLD!

All right, man—you've helped a lot! I've seen your movies, and there are no words. But I've gotta say: Testing strains in a closet in South America is difficult, because you've gotta have air movement.

I always make sure to check your list ... many thanks for the tips. *Eu vou plantar!* (Brazilian—i.e., Portuguese—for "I'm going to plant!")

Nando Gamedog
Via Internet

Dear Nando,

Thanks for the email: Everybody's listening to you! My DVDs are officially in English, but I have one copy in Portuguese and another in Russian—both bootlegs. (This DVD has a habit of getting around.) And we are currently working on putting it out in several languages.

I'm amazed at the way that both indoor and outdoor growing have taken off in the last five years. Growers in countries all over the world are now cultivating world-class bud right in their own homes! This is a big triumph. I just came from the hemp fair in Vienna, Austria (cultiva.at), and was delighted to see new cannabis magazines from Hungary, Poland—and two from the Czech Republic. The Russians are also growing more than we know!

More growers in more climates means a greater selection of seed stock in the future—and also that cannabis aficionados will see more great dope! 🌱

Jorge Cervantes is the author of *Marijuana Horticulture: The Indoor/Outdoor Medical Grower's Bible* (January 2006), *Jorge Cervantes' Ultimate Grow DVD* (shot in BC) and *Jorge Cervantes' Ultimate Grow DVD II* (shot in Spain), *Indoor Marijuana Horticulture: The Indoor Bible*, *Marijuana Indoors: Five Easy Gardens*, *Marijuana Outdoors: Guerrilla Growing* and *Jorge's Rx*. He writes for 20 magazines in seven languages. Jorge's books are published in Dutch, English, French, German, Italian, Russian and Spanish. Hit marijuana-growing.com for more information.

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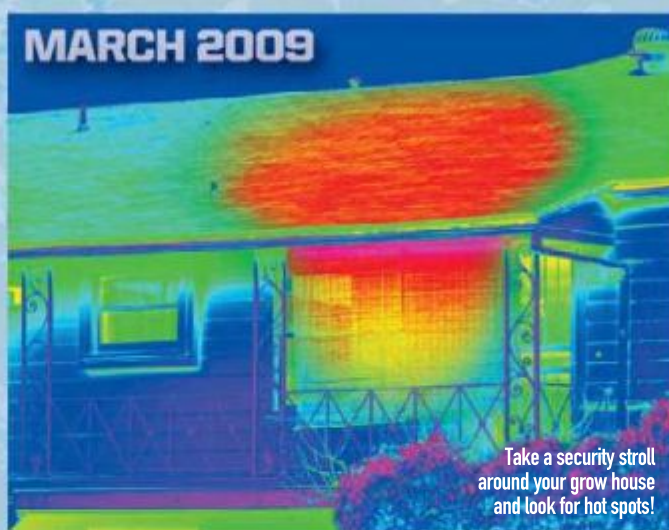
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GARDEN CALENDAR



OUTDOORS

March heralds the first signs of warm weather. Winter weather starts to give way to intermittent patches of spring. There should now be enough warm days and nights in southern climates to nurture a spring crop. Growers in northern climates are taking advantage of spring skiing and planning their outdoor crops.

Surf the Internet for seed deals. Even though many Canadian vendors will no longer send seeds into the USA, there are many companies elsewhere that will—for example, in the United Kingdom. If you've harvested heavy and the recession hasn't got you down, take a vacation this month and buy seeds personally at the many great vendors in Canada, Spain, the UK and Holland.

Inspect stored seeds. Maintain the humidity as low as possible to extend storage life. Put silicon packets in with the seeds to absorb moisture, and take them out periodically to dry. Or use rice for the same purpose, and be sure to periodically replace the not-so-dry rice. (Moist rice swells.) Store your seeds in a cool, dark, dry place in an airtight container for the longest shelf life.

Buds in storage can get moldy if they're kept in humid conditions. Be sure that they're dry before storing them; place your buds in an airtight jar or container and be sure to store them in a cool, dark, dry place. Inspect your buds with a 10x to 30x microscope or loupe to check for degradation and mold.

Scout out new grow patches. Take weekend drives and hikes in the countryside to find new, discreet places to plant. Small two- or three-plant sites are the best. Remember: If the garden is close to a good water source, it's much easier to maintain. The site also needs plenty of sun and good soil.

And make sure it's well off the beaten path for added security.

Germinate seeds and start clones for your new spring crop. Set 12- to 18-inch clones and seedlings outdoors under the cover of a plastic greenhouse if weather permits. A little heat at night will extend the growing season. Use a Wall-O'-Water if temperatures dip below freezing at night. This miracle device, which is available from many retail stores and websites, will protect plants down into the low 20s(°F) for a few nights. Days and nights are both about 12 hours each now—the perfect schedule to induce flowering! The long nights continue for six more weeks.

INDOORS

If you've been cooped up all winter, spend as much time outdoors as possible enjoying the nice weather. You can still keep your growroom growing—just remember that outdoor weather also affects the atmosphere indoors.

The air outside is warming up with each passing day, but nighttime temperatures generally dip when the sun goes down. This condition creates an increase in humidity both indoors and out. A good sign of high nighttime humidity is dew on the grass. Take steps to control humidity in your growroom—especially at night—to avoid problems later.

Gas and oil furnaces create high humidity. A dehumidifier will lower humidity, but use one only if the humidity jumps to 60% or 70% in the flowering room. Normally, a vent fan will supply enough humidity control. Slow, sickly growth is one of the simple signs of excess humidity and soggy soil.

Electric, coal and wood stoves or furnaces cause low humidity. If humidity dips below 40% in the flowering room, set out saucers of water to increase the air moisture

and water your plants often. Vegetative-room humidity should ideally hover around 60%.

Look at leaf undersides and surfaces for diseases and pests. Spider mites and their eggs look like tiny specks on leaf undersides. Spider mites also damage the tops of leaves with whitish-yellow speckles or spots. The warm, spring-like weather can spawn new hatches of pests outdoors that will attempt to move into your growroom. Remember: A clean growroom attracts few pests. Also, always wear clean clothes and shoes into your growroom to avoid contamination.

Fertilizer and water uptake could change this month. The atmospheric change outside often causes the temperature and humidity in your growroom to change, which in turn causes plants to take in more water and fewer nutrients. Meter the nutrient solution regularly and keep it adjusted. Plotting the growth rate and nutrient-solution concentration along with temperature and humidity will help you fine-tune your growroom's efficiency.

Take pH and EC (ppm) readings of the nutrient solution every few days. Be sure to take the readings at the same time and with the nutrient solution at the same temperature every day to ensure consistency. Record your readings in a notebook or on graph paper. After taking these readings for a few weeks, the inconsistencies and problems in your room that need to be remedied will leap out at you.

Leach the grow medium once a month at a minimum. Pour two to three times the volume of a mild nutrient solution as the volume of medium into each container to flush away toxic, built-up fertilizer salts. Follow this simple maintenance routine to avoid many future problems.

Walk around the outside of your grow area. Put all of your senses to work—touch, taste, smell, hearing and sight—to discern any security breaches. Are there any dubious odors, sounds or light leaks? Does the garbage contain any remnants of a grow operation?

Take clones two to three weeks before harvest. Germinate seeds about two months before harvest so they're ready to move into the flowering room.

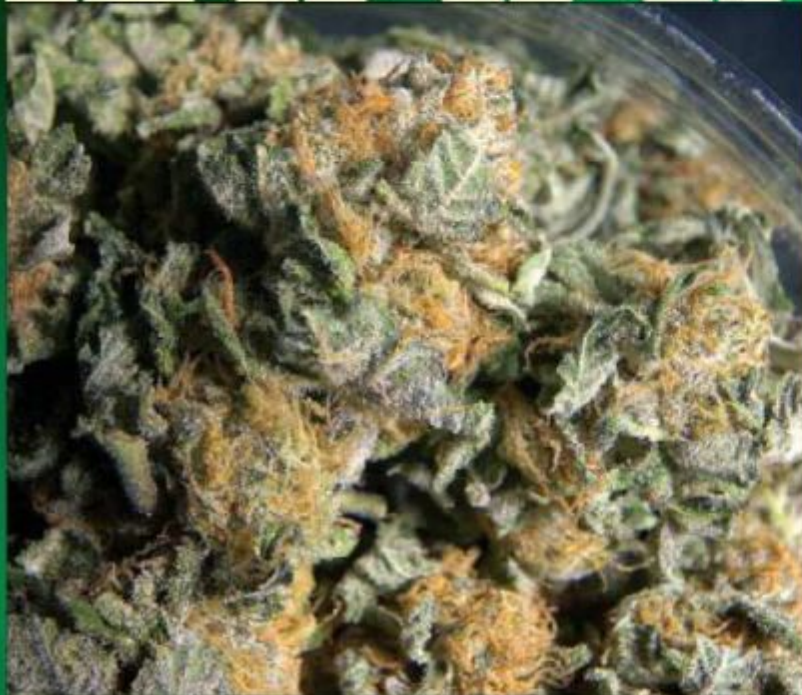
Harvest!

Clean room thoroughly and move in the next crop of clones. ✨

GROW like a PRO!

Jorge Cervantes

2009 ULTIMATE GROW CALENDAR



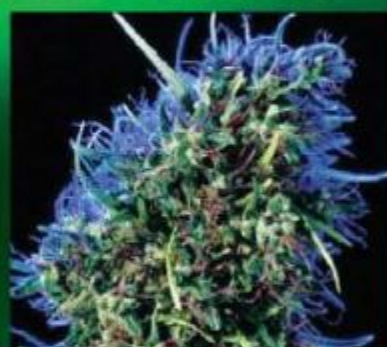
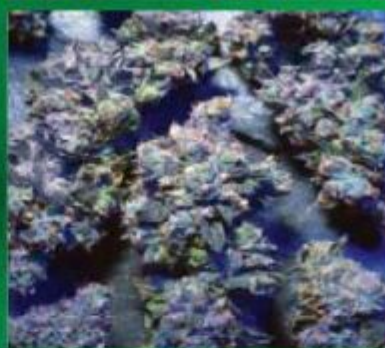
HIGH TIMES
OCTOBER 2009

INDOOR
Indoor growing is a controlled environment and is the most consistent way to grow cannabis. It allows you to control the temperature, humidity, and light cycle. This is the best way to grow cannabis in a small space or in a climate that is not ideal for growing outdoors.

OUTDOOR
Outdoor growing is a more natural way to grow cannabis. It allows you to take advantage of the natural environment and the sun. However, it is more susceptible to weather conditions and pests. It is best for growers with a large space and a suitable climate.

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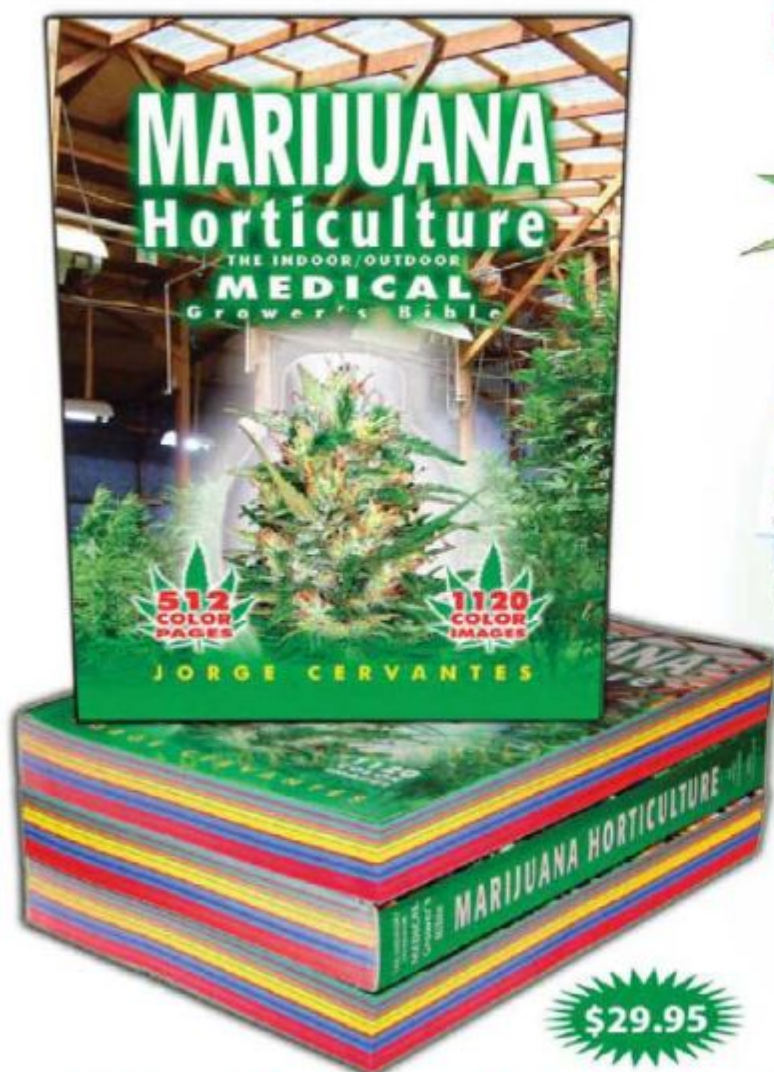
INDOOR GROW TIP

Stop fertilizing at least a week before harvest. Many growers stop fertilizing two or more weeks before harvest. Continue to fertilize with a super-bloom formula high in phosphorus and potassium and very low nitrogen if you plan to harvest next month.

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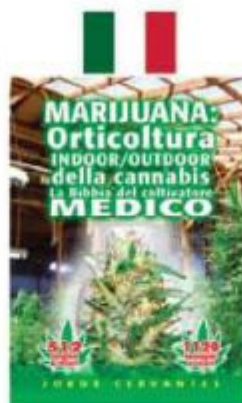
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NEXT MONTH IN HIGH TIMES



BRIAN JAHN

THE 21ST ANNUAL CANNABIS CUP

Over the years, the HIGH TIMES Cannabis Cup in Amsterdam has become one of the items that stoners put on their "bucket list"—an event they promise themselves they absolutely must attend at least once prior to kicking the bucket!

Each year, we cover the high-spirited high jinks and high-flying strains that fuel the merriment that transpires every November, and culminates in the Cannabis Cup awards ceremony on Thanksgiving Day. In addition, the Cup also honors the latest inductee into the Counterculture Hall of Fame.

As always, we'll pull out all the stops for this issue, bringing you highlights of the Cup, profiles of the winning strains and interviews with Dutch grow masters. Plus you're gonna get socked with the finest bud photography on the planet.

And don't forget about the entertainment! With reggae as the theme of the 21st Cup, Andrew Tosh and Ky-mani Marley blew out the crowd, then sat down for conversations about their musical legacy.

It's a smokefest you just can't miss. (But if you did, read about how you can attend in 2009.)

Make sure you don't leave this earth with your Cup half-full!

GO TOKE IT ON THE MOUNTAIN!

Ride down the mountain with pro snowboarder Mark "Deadlung" Edlund. Find out how he got his nickname, what his favorite strains are and what it's like to ride high. As an added bonus, step inside a "smoke shack"—the off-trail mountainside chill spots where smart boarders go to get blazed.

PLUS: Bobby Black covers the smokin' Cannabis Cup Expo at the Power Zone, where the inhaling was hot and heavy every day of the week.

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(Above) The game of growers and stoners who buy, sell and trade while running a budding business. \$34.99



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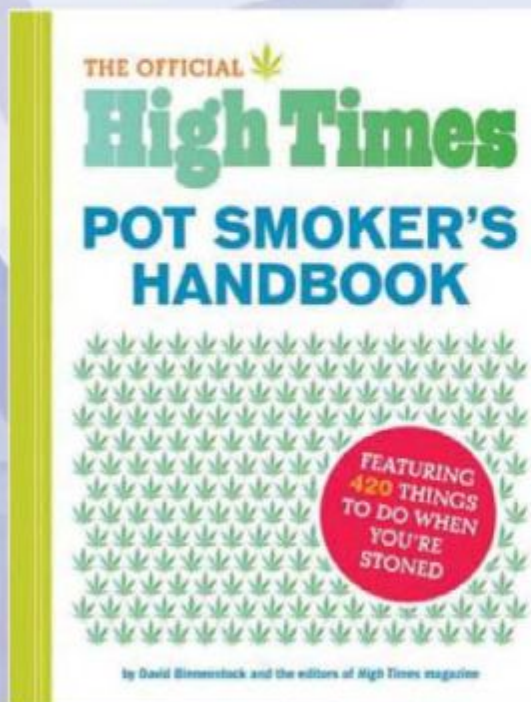
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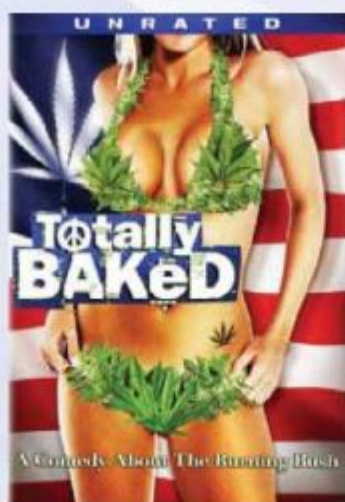
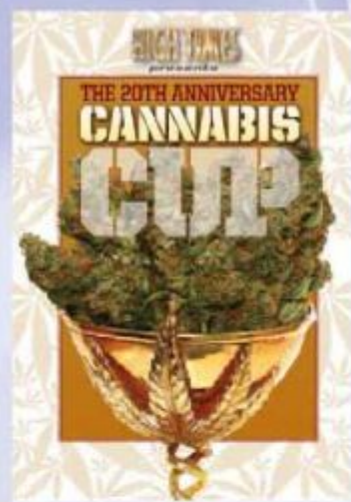


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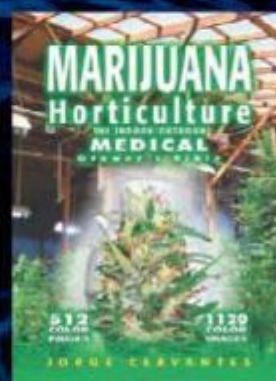
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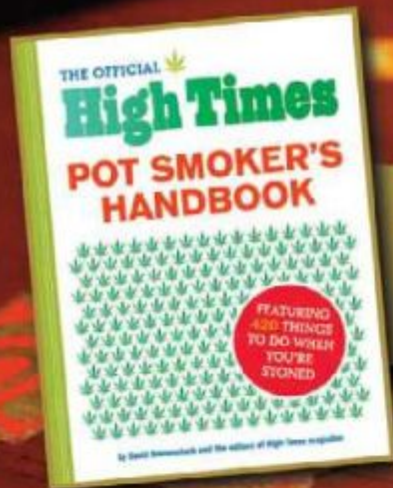
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